

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Colombo Plan

WHAT had become an almost forgotten subject—the Colombo Plan—is brought again to the notice of the public by the publication of a voluminous report on the progress of this tremendous project. The report gives an impressive list of the construction works being carried out by the various countries of South Asia. It describes the aid they are giving to each other and receiving from the Western countries. Delays are no longer taking place in the delivery of capital goods by the West. When rearmament began it was feared that the demand for steel would stand in the way of production for peaceable purposes. This is an agreeable picture of achievement and co-operation in the non-Communist world. But some things are left out. In a passage of five lines—in a report of 110 pages—there is the reminder that even if the Colombo Plan is carried out in full it will do little more than hold the existing position, since the increased income will be absorbed at once by the remorselessly increasing populations. That is quite obviously a key fact.

THE report discusses very briefly the dangers of inflation if foreign finance is not forthcoming and if the countries taking part have to resort to deficit financing. To serve its proper purpose the report should have brought the danger into the centre of attention. Nowhere does it stress the urgency of mobilising more foreign capital. This neglect is the more serious because the fallacious view has been growing up that there are narrow limits to the capacity of the "under-developed" countries to absorb capital. Whatever the limits may be, these countries call out for sums much larger than are at present being invested. There is another omission. For raising food production in Asia, experience has shown that the measure which brings the maximum result with the least expenditure is to consolidate the scattered holdings of the peasantry. The fragmentation of land is the greatest single impediment to good husbandry. Where it has been overcome the result is spectacular, and surely the Consultative Committee should have given some advice about this to the countries taking part in the Colombo Plan.

New Plan For Settling

Persian Oil Dispute

3 PROPOSALS ADVANCED

New York, Dec. 29.

A plan for settling the Persian oil dispute has been worked out by world oil chiefs, it was learned in New York today. The plan is the result of secret talks held by international oilmen at the Anglo-Iranian London headquarters just before Christmas when they agreed tentatively to the following proposals:

1. The setting up of a new internationally-owned marketing company to sell Persian oil. Shareholders would include leading American oil giants, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the Anglo-Dutch controlled Shell group.
2. Crude oil production and the Abadan refinery would become Persian Government property.
3. Production would be strictly controlled during the first three years to prevent disturbance of the world oil market.

Production would be stepped up during the first three years from around nine million tons to around 18 million in the third year. Accordingly Persia's revenue would range from \$45 millions to \$90 millions. Before the dispute Persia's income was \$10 millions a year, a figure which the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in a fresh agreement offered to double. Under the new plan the Abadan refinery would be operated by British and American technicians with Persian labour.

It is assumed Persia would compensate the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for the loss of its exclusive rights. It is estimated that full-out production of the whole range of oil products would not be possible for at least two years. **ANOTHER MEETING** There is to be another meeting of the oil chiefs at the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's London office in the middle of January, and if their agreement to the plan is final, it will be offered to the Persian Government as a settlement for the dispute. The City Editor of the London Daily Express writes: the first thing to note is that by this plan the Americans will achieve a long-time ambition—to share the Persian oil. Before the dispute, Britain had the major share of Middle East oil—60 per cent to the Americans' 40. Already it is

the other way about with a resulting big dollar loss in earnings for the Empire. The second thing to note, adds the writer, is the possibility of trouble inherent in the new plan. Any return of Persian oil must lead to a cutback in output in other fields and this might tend to trouble in other oil-producing Middle Eastern states when revenues are clipped.—London Express Service.

Korean DP's Agreement

Panmunjom, Dec. 29.

Korean civilians displaced from their homes during the war will start moving north and south across the truce line on March 1, the United Nations and the Communists agreed today.

The Military Armistice Commission agreed to allow 100 displaced persons a day to cross into North or South Korea to return to homes they lost during the war.

The operation will involve thousands of Koreans, but accurate estimates on the number who were pushed north or south during the three-year fighting are not known. The exchange of displaced persons between North and South Korea was one of the provisions of the Korean armistice agreement, but a plan for the operation was not completed until today.

DP's will cross the truce line at Panmunjom 20 at a time between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., starting March 1. Many people in South Korea have friends and relatives who went north with the UN army during the war and were trapped in the allied retreat. Others in South Korea want to return to their old homes in the north.—United Press.

STOP PRESS

DAVIS CUP LATEST

Melbourne, Dec. 30. Lewis Hall, of Australia, won the first set against America's No. 1, Tony Trabert, in their Davis Cup Challenge Round singles here today. The young Australian won the match by 12-11 as the American failed to hold his service for the first time in the 24th game. Head won the second set 6-3 amid intermittent rain. The Australian did not lose a single service in the two sets. Trabert won the third set 6-2. Both players are wearing spiked shoes as the rain continues. Trabert won the fourth set 6-4.

94,000 Lives Lost Through Accidents

New York, Dec. 29. —Accidents took about 94,000 lives in the United States this year, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company announced today. This was about 2,000 fewer than in 1952, and was the first time in four years that the number of accidental deaths represented a decrease from the preceding year's total, the company said. Motor vehicle accident fatalities totaled about 38,000 in 1953, not appreciably different from the number in 1952, and as in other recent years accounts for about two-fifths of all accidental deaths.—Reuter.

More East-West Trade Predicted

New York, Dec. 29.

East-West trade in non-strategic goods will increase in 1954, Warren Les Pierson, chairman of the US Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, predicted here today.

At a press conference, Mr. Pierson predicted that the whole question of trade with the Soviet satellites and Communist China would be thoroughly explored next year both by the United States and its allies.

The initiative for an expanded trade with the Eastern bloc, he added, would most likely come from Europe and not from the United States.

However, he continued, the United States probably would be "displaced" to more East-West trade during the coming year. He emphasized that the suggestions made by Senator Joseph McCarthy, which would cut off American aid to those nations trading with the Communist bloc, did not reflect the views of President Eisenhower or the Republican administration. He added that 1954 would see the "appropraiation" of the views of both Mr. Eisenhower and Senator McCarthy in the direction of more trade with the East.

STRONG BEARING

He said that the extent to which nations could adjust their trade policies along traditional lines had a strong bearing on their ability to reach peaceful settlement of outstanding difference.

He added that "one way to avoid war" was to develop trade in non-strategic items which "will not help the enemy."

Mr. Pierson, long an exponent of lower U.S. tariffs and increased world trade, leading to eventual currency convertibility, said he was "not optimistic" about the progress the United States would make next year in formulating a more uniform and less-restrictive tariff policy.

He pointed out that the Randall Commission, now studying the broad question of international trade, at the direction of the President and the Congress, was after all only an advisory agency. The ultimate decision, he added, would have to be made by the Congress.—United Press.

RIOTS SEQUEL

Vienna, Dec. 29. A Czechoslovak court at Ostrava has sentenced eight people to prison terms ranging from six months to five years for taking part in riots which marked Czech currency reform last June, according to Czech newspaper reports just received here. (The riot were variously charged with organizing disturbances and trying to cause stoppages of the railway motor bus routes and in the factories and mines. They were further charged with having looted shops and having spread rumors of a Communist takeover by Czech National Front.)

INDO-CHINA

Rebels' Offensive Checked

"Situation Well In Hand"

Saigon, Dec. 29.

French Union air blows and diversionary attacks in the Northern rice bowl around Hanoi today checked a Communist push down through Central Indo-China toward Saigon.

The French authorities were optimistic for the first time since the Red rebels swept across the wasp waist of Indo-China in a Christmas drive to the border of Thailand.

"We have the situation well in hand," said Maurice Dejean, French Commissioner-General. "The military situation definitely has not deteriorated."

He spoke after watching reinforcements flood into the great Laotian airbase of Seno and the garrison of nearby Savannakhet, the gateway to the South. Red offensives had thrust directly at them, but French planes bombed and strafed them to a halt.

The pilots were helped by ground attacks on the enemy's rear at their North, in which the High Command said, 500 Reds were killed and 500 captured.

Some French officers predicted the Reds would swing the main weight of their drive Northward in a bid to overrun the Hanoi fortress commanding the rich Red River delta.

"CLUSTER OF FLIES"

"If the rebels took Lachue and attacked Thakhot, it is because they seek cheap, spectacular successes, having been unable to win any substantial advantages in the Red River delta," said M. Dejean after spending Christmas with the French forces at Seno.

"The Vietminh is like a cluster of flies buzzing on a branch of a tree. If you strike them, they fly off in all directions. That is why our High Command welcomes all opportunities to oppose the Vietminh in force."

Bearded fighter-bombers and B-26 light bombers rained the Mekong Valley next to Thailand and Red strongholds in the North, while loyalists and rebels clashed at several points on the outer fringes of the Hanoi defenses.

The Northern counter-attack, called "Operation Falcon," probed Red-held rice paddies 75 miles southeast of Hanoi, a French spokesman said. He announced the killing of 500 rebels and the capture of as many more, but said the operation had progressed further.

WEAPONS CAPTURED

The French captured large stocks of Communist automatic weapons and some artillery in Laos, the spokesman said.

Despite the Red success in capturing the Western Thai capital of Lachue and splitting the country, French officials said the enemy had kept at least two of their five veteran divisions—the 308th and the 312th—on the rim of the Hanoi perimeter.

Headquarters reported that a Franco-Laotian detachment fell on a Red column near Muong Khona in Northern Indo-China and inflicted a sizable but unspecified number of casualties.

Alarms raised bombs and napalm on a Red force concentrated around Heibon, 80 miles northwest of Hanoi. French officials said the Reds threatened the position with 50,000 regulars and a big force of guerrillas.

Also hit by air was the Red 311th (Iron) Division, encamped only seven miles from the French airbase of Dien Bien Phu, 174 miles west of Hanoi.

POLITICAL CRISIS

The Communist drive caused a political crisis in the Laotian capital of Vientiane. The Foreign Minister, Mouang Akkhou, resigned complaining that the government had been slow to take action against the Red drive.—United Press.



Experiments are proceeding at the Signal Corps Pictorial Centre, Long Island, USA, in the use of Television at the battlefield. The US Signal Corps Mobile Television Section is carrying out the experiments. The idea is for the TV cameras to be placed in the front line with scenes of the enemy movements transmitted to the headquarters some distance back—thereby the Commanding Officers can control every movement and counter movement at will with the comparative safety of being out of the front line.—London Express.

President Magsaysay Calls For Global Collective Security

Manila, Dec. 30.

Philippines President Ramon Magsaysay today called for global collective security, friendship with Asian nations and a closer partnership with the United States.

Addressing the nation on his inauguration as third President of the Republic, Mr. Magsaysay appealed to the country to strive toward becoming a monument to international goodwill and called on the Communist Hukbalahaps still in armed rebellion to surrender.

He said he would give priority to Philippines domestic problems, but added his Government would not neglect its international responsibilities.

Mr. Magsaysay said: "We cannot escape the fact that today the destinies of nations are closely linked."

"It is to our common interest that this Republic, a monument to mutual goodwill and common labour, should prove to the world the vitality of the democracy by which we live."

"We shall continue to co-operate with the United Nations in seeking collective security and a just world peace."

"No effort will be spared and no element of co-operation will be withheld in strengthening and safeguarding our physical security. We are prepared to live up to all our obligations under our mutual defence treaty with the United States," Mr. Magsaysay said.

FEATERNAL GREETINGS

"To our Asian brothers we send our fraternal greetings. They are beset by problems of the same nature and complexity as those that confront us. We invite them to share our experience in finding solutions to these problems through democratic means. It may be hoped we can exchange experiences and information on methods of solving the problems of illiteracy, poverty, disease, under-productivity and other common evils which have afflicted our countries for past generations."

President Magsaysay also urged the Huk guerrillas to surrender their arms and to join the rest of the nation in the ways of peace, building a better life for the people of the Philippines.

He said that the Government would continue to work for the peace and stability of the Philippines, and that it would continue to work for the peace and stability of the world.

Fire Victims Relief Fund

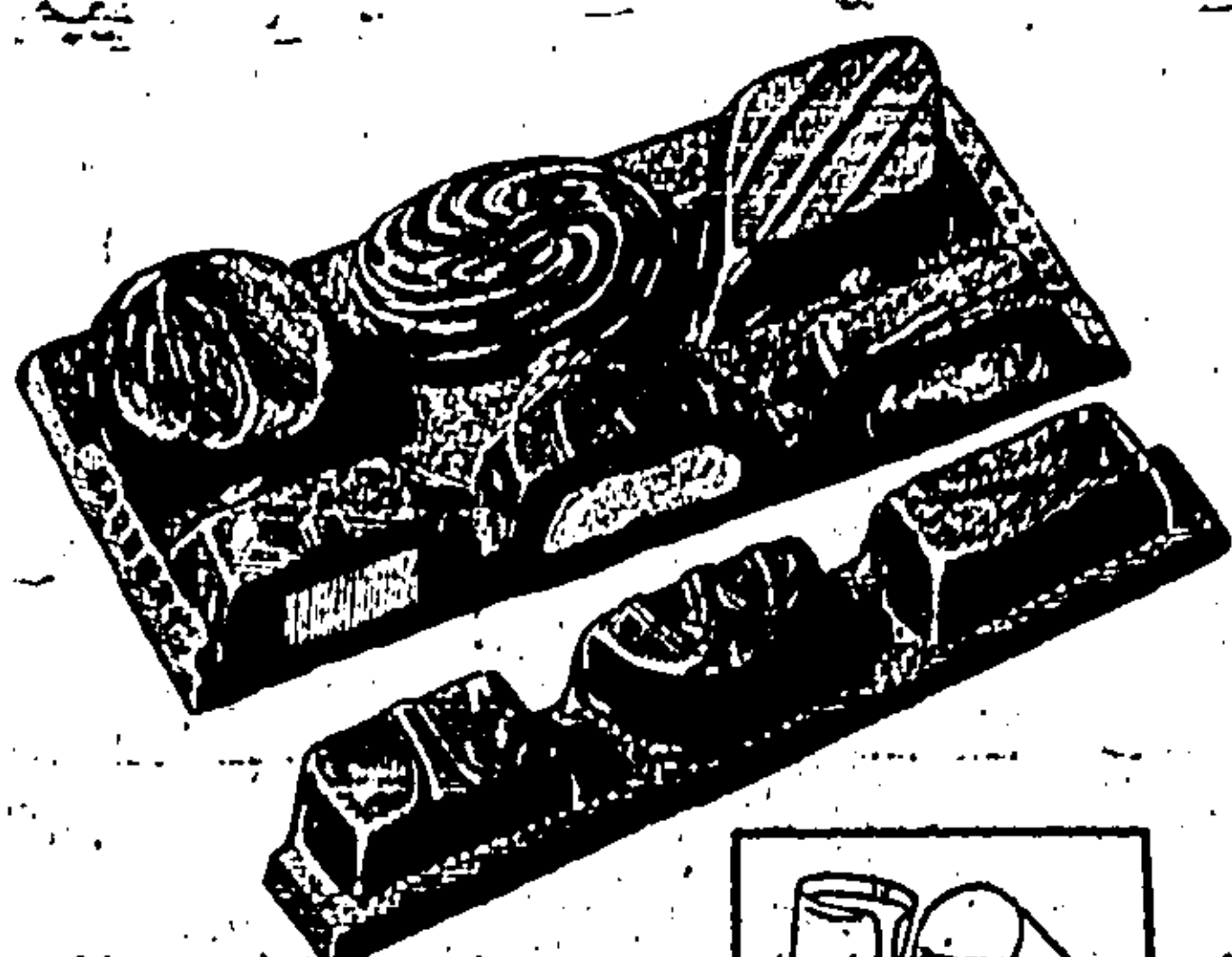
At 10 o'clock this morning donations to the Shum-shuipo Fire Victims Relief Fund, sponsored by the S. C. M. Post, Ltd., totalled \$295,591, an increase of \$42,201 on the overnight figure.

Members of the public, who wish to subscribe to this Fund should cross cheques and make them payable to "The Shum-shuipo Fire Victims Relief Fund."

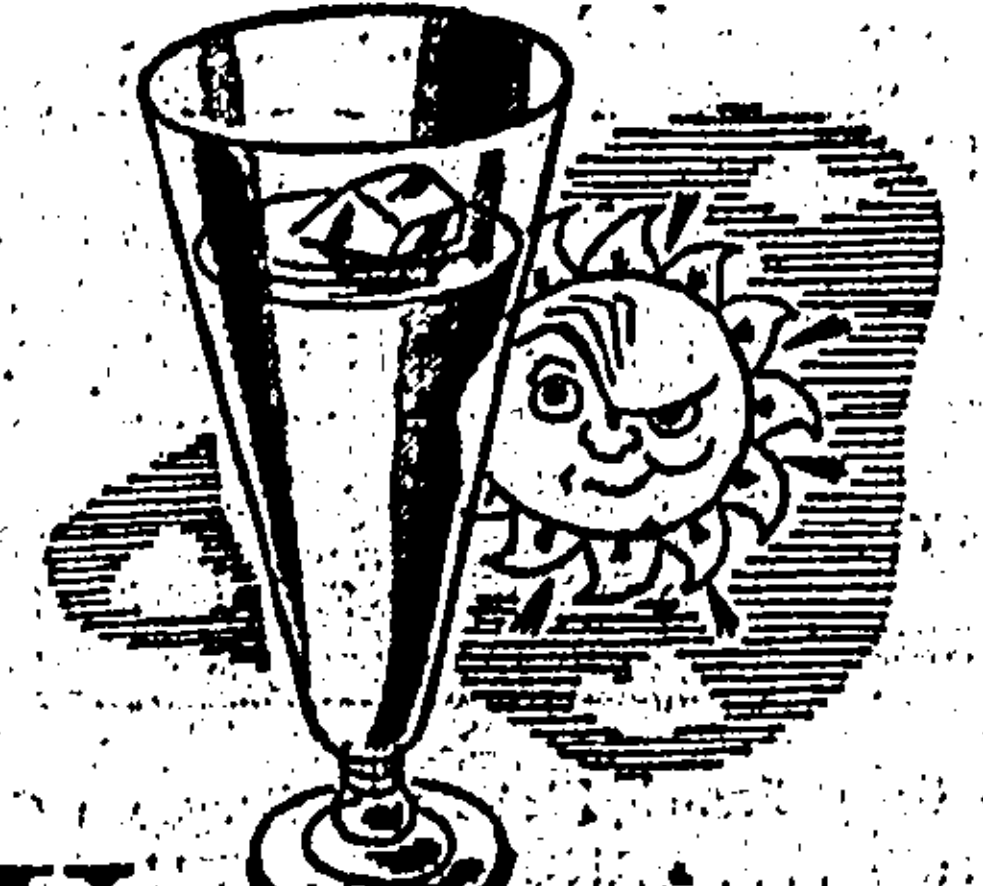
TODAY'S DONATIONS

Andrew Tao	\$ 100.00
Z. D. Woo	50.00
F. A. Y.	10.00
Management & Staff, Indo-China Trading Co., Ltd.	205.00
Mr. Ah Ban	50.00
William Su & Peter Leung	10.00
John I.	15.00
A. Queen's Gardens	185.00
Mr. Potter	20.00
Miss Helen Yu	20.00
Anonymous	10.00
David Taul	20.00
Ho Kar Yuen	25.00
T. D. Sorby	20.00
Mrs. P. B. Calderara	20.00
Miss C. S. Calderara	8.75
H. K. Police Force, Western Division	251.00
"The Carol Singing Collectors"	50.00
Dr. & Mrs. G. C. Dansey-Browning	50.00
Anonymous	5.00
Anonymous	100.00
China Inland Mission	95.00
Aida & Eduardo Alarcon	10.00
Staff, Reiss, Bradley & Co., Ltd. in memory of Mrs. E. F. O'Brien	55.00
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W. H. Williams	50.00
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Mr. & Mrs. P. Dorochue	100.00
Local Printing Press Ltd.	500.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Co.	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Fung Ring-tan	1,000.00
Michael W. Lin	20.00
Tajmahal Silk Store Ltd.	100.00
Dr. Li Shu-lan	200.00
F. C. Woo	50.00
E. L. Greene	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Wyllie	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. B. Pasco	50.00
H. M. Sperry	100.00
H. Small	50.00
Chinese Athletic Association	200.00
Anonymous	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Darby	100.00
Greenley's	250.00
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Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Wakefield	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Cairns	50.00

(Contd. on Back Page, Col. 3)



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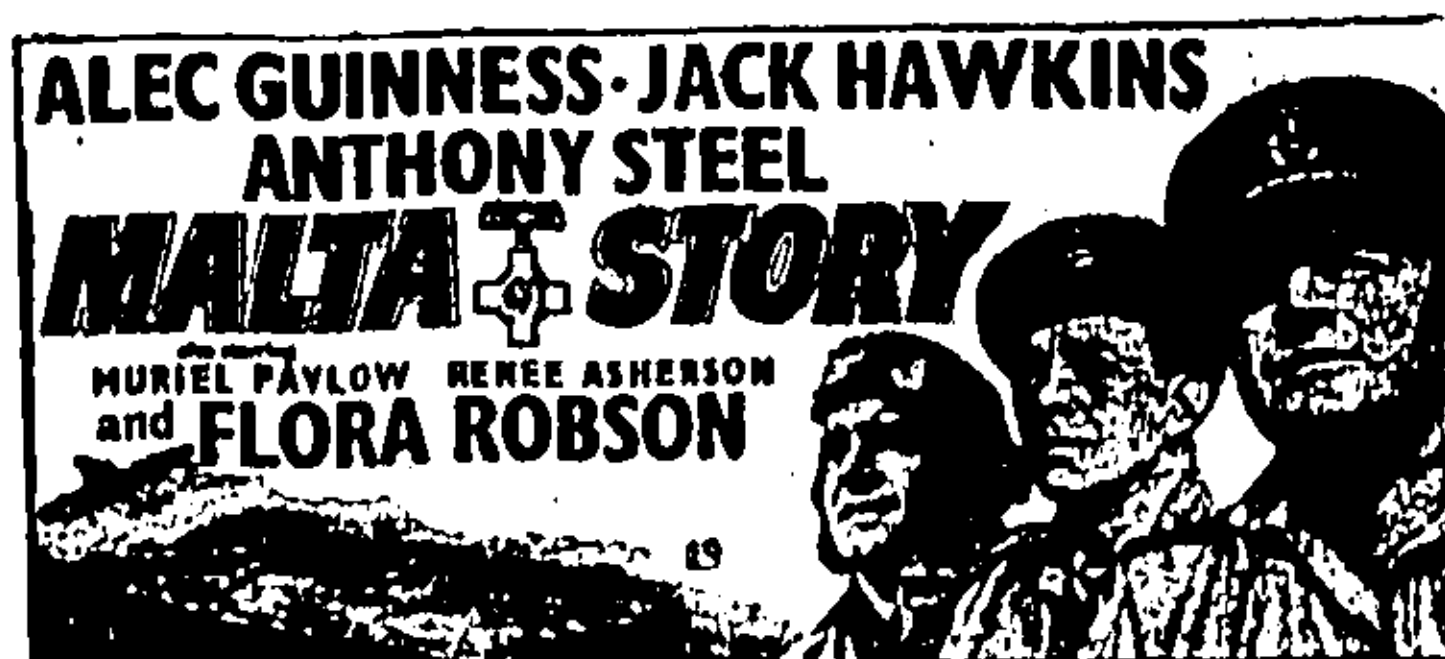
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SHOWING TO-DAY



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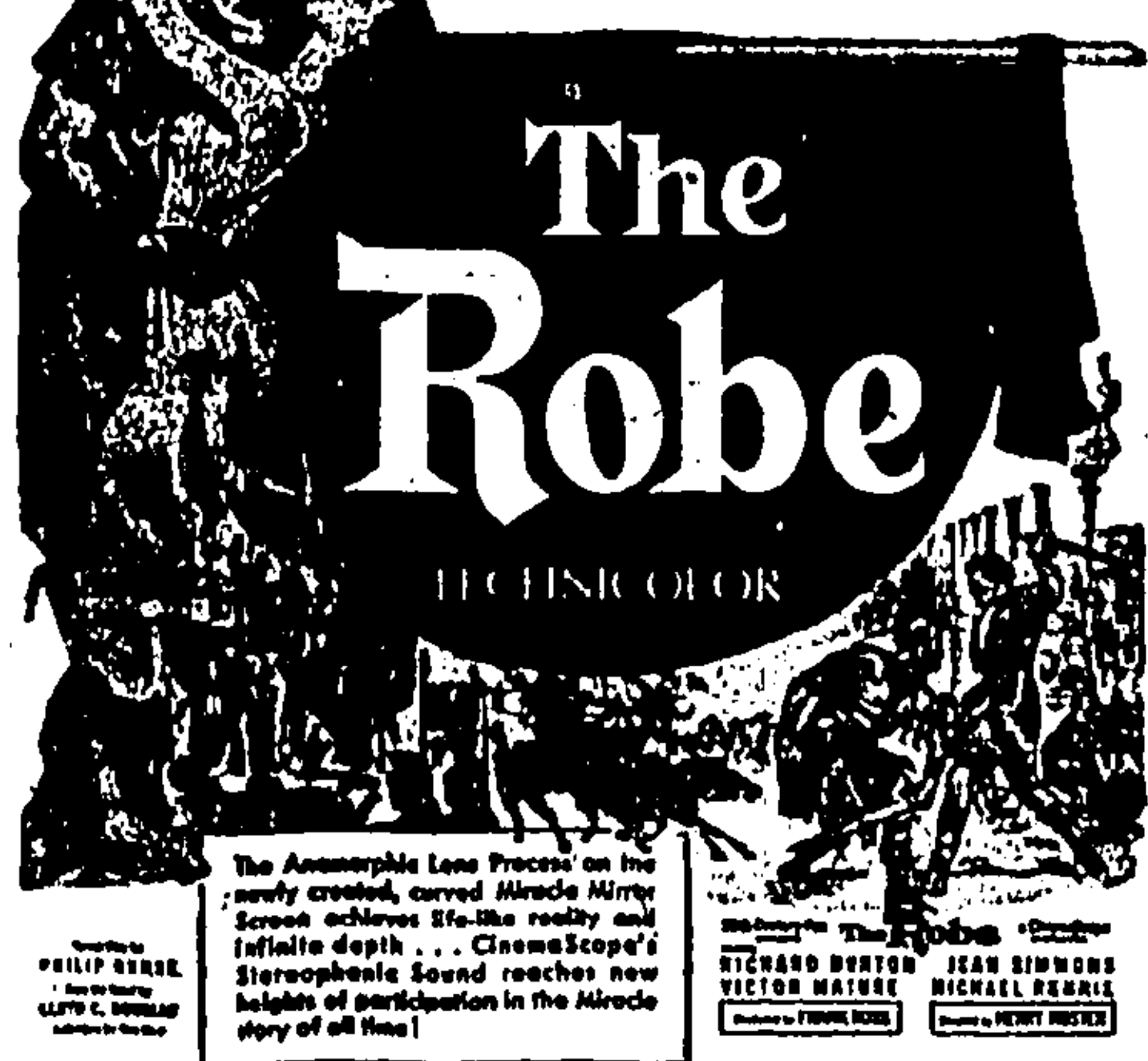
Owing to length of picture please note change of times: At 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.45 p.m.

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FINANCE MINISTERS HAVE WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS

London, Dec. 30.

Finance Ministers of the British Commonwealth will prepare plans in Sydney next month to safeguard the economy of the sterling area so that it can meet any trade recession that may occur in 1954.

But authoritative quarters here said last night that Britain does not agree with any extreme form of trade "depression talks." In particular, she is hopeful that the United States will continue to maintain a high level of production and business activity.

Her success in this direction will bear powerfully on the Commonwealth's plans for strengthening its own economy.

The Sydney conference will open on January 8 and last a week. It will be attended by the Finance Ministers and representatives of Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and the new Central African Federation.

Mr R. A. Butler, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, will leave London by air tomorrow

for the conference. Official sources here said that the chair would be taken by Mr G. R. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia.

This is the first time a British Chancellor of the Exchequer has not presided at such a meeting.

One of the main aims of the conference will be to consolidate the Commonwealth's recent achievement in surmounting a series of economic crises which two years ago threatened the solvency of the whole sterling area.

The gold and dollar reserves of the sterling area, which were fast running out in 1951, are now rising steadily. In November they increased by \$41,000,000 to a total of \$2,561,000,000, a year ago they were \$1,895,000,000.

CONVERTIBILITY

The Commonwealth Finance Ministers will pledge themselves anew to the aim of making the pound sterling freely convertible into other world currencies.

This is a long-term aim, and British bankers of the sterling area, during the past year some progress was made towards it.

But authoritative quarters said tonight that before the pound could be freed these conditions at least must be met:

1. The individual Commonwealth nations must be made strong through further increased exports and anti-inflationary measures.

2. The Commonwealth must develop its vast industrial, agricultural and mineral resources.

3. There must be adequate credit support either through the International Monetary Fund or in some other way.

4. The United States, richest nation in the world, must adopt good creditor policies here point out that if America increased her imports by even one per cent, this would multiply to a five per cent gain for the economy of the Commonwealth.

The high American tariff wall is one of the biggest barriers to increased and vital dollar earnings by the sterling area.

But the Sydney conference will be mainly concerned with putting the Commonwealth's own economic affairs in order, because the United States is still awaiting the report of the Clarence Randall Commission, set up by President Eisenhower to check future American foreign trade practices.

RAW MATERIAL PRICES

The Commonwealth will endeavour, meanwhile, to improve its balance of payments with the rest of the world by exporting more, particularly to the dollar areas.

The conference is expected to emphasize the continuation of all anti-inflationary steps, greater production, increased exports and development of all Commonwealth industrial projects calculated to put the sterling area in trading credit with the other monetary areas.

The Finance Ministers will explore ways of securing more stable prices and prices for vital dollar-earning raw materials such as tin, rubber, and jute, which the Commonwealth produces in large quantities.

Main Commonwealth object is to ensure that the United States will continue to buy these commodities for her stockpiles.

But it is recognised there are limits to what the Commonwealth by itself can do on commodity policy because any stabilisation action must have international support, principally the United States.

The Finance Ministers attach cardinal importance, to the

Commonwealth's development plans. These include specific industrial and agricultural projects in Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan, Ceylon, and in the British colonies, where there are almost fabulous untapped natural resources.

Britain has put aside \$60,000,000 over a period of five years for overseas development. It is available to Commonwealth territories through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank).

A new City Corporation has also been established in London to help finance individual Commonwealth programmes. In 1953 Britain authorised loans totalling £100,000,000 to be raised in London by overseas sources—excluding Canada—for Commonwealth development.

These projected developments, financed from private and public sources, will figure prominently in the conference discussions. Britain thinks the available money should be concentrated on productive development.

The United Kingdom delegation is leaving for Sydney determined to do everything possible to advance the policy of expansion, the development of overseas wealth, the freeing of trade and commodities.

The system of imperial preferences, whereby Commonwealth nations give each other trade privileges, will also be discussed.—Reuter.

Protest By "Teachers For Peace"

London, Dec. 29.

A Communist-sponsored conference of teachers for peace protested today against the British Government's refusal to allow foreign delegates from West and East Germany, France, Belgium and Rumania to enter the country.

Two hundred delegates and observers from all parts of the British Isles are taking part in the conference.—France-Press.

U.S. Must Bear High Defence Costs

Washington, Dec. 29.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Charles Wilson, warned Americans today that they must bear high defence costs and accept military service as a normal part of life as long as Russia threatened world peace.

Mr Wilson announced, in a year-end report on the United States defence programme, that the time had come for re-appraisal of the free world's mutual security programme in the light of new weapons developments and changing global strategy.

"The military weakness which existed throughout the free world four years ago no longer prevails," said Mr Wilson in a report which commented optimistically on the defence situation in Europe while taking a more sober view of conditions in Asia.

"As in our own rearmament programme, the initial phase of the build-up was nearing completion during the fiscal year 1953, thus making possible a reappraisal of requirements in the light of the current military situation."—United Press.

Riches To Rags

Keene, New Hampshire, Dec. 29.
It was right to see at the home of Mrs William H. MacDonald yesterday. Her six-month-old puppy, Rags, chewed up nearly \$100 in bills.—United Press.

India-Pakistan Talks On Kashmir

New Delhi, Dec. 30.

A joint communiqué published here and in Karachi today announced "satisfactory progress" in the preliminary talks held in Delhi since December 21 between the Indian and Pakistani commissioners' official experts on the minorities and pre-requisites of a plebiscite in Kashmir.

In the course of nine sessions, the two committees discussed the following—

(1) The creation and maintenance of a peaceful atmosphere before and during the plebiscite.

(2) The withdrawal of British and Pakistani nationals from the state;

(3) The quota and character of the armed forces to be maintained in the state;

(4) The local authorities to be in charge of the administration north and west of the ceasefire line;

(5) The safeguard of fundamental rights in the state.

The two committees will now report to their respective Prime Ministers, who will decide whether a further meeting between the two sides should take place.—France Presse.

"Japan Must Be Ready For US Withdrawal"

Tokyo, Dec. 29.

The Tokyo Evening News warned Japan today that the withdrawal of two United States divisions from Korea brings closer the day when American troops will pull out of Japan.

Unless Japan prepared itself accordingly, the English-language newspaper said, Japanese who had been pressing the Americans to "go home" will be forced to plead "Don't go home, Yankees."

The American President's decision to reduce the troops in Korea, the Evening News said, "moves one large step closer" to the point at which the possibility of withdrawing some American troops from Japan "may well become the subject of serious consideration both in Washington and Tokyo."

"Americans are likely to ask if the boys can be brought home from Korea, where they still face the Chinese army across a narrow no man's land, why not bring some of them home from Japan, which enjoys the protection of the U.S. Navy and Air Force?" the newspaper said.

"This is not a question requiring decisions next week or next month. But the Government would do well to include it in calculations for the progressive build-up of Japan's new armed forces."

"Otherwise, it could happen that one fine morning the Government could find itself faced with a withdrawal for which it is unprepared and be reduced to pleading: 'Please, don't go home, Yankees.'"

United Press.

West End Star Ill

London, Dec. 29.

Miss Margaret Leighton, star of T.S. Eliot's new London West End play "The Confidential Clerk," was making good progress in hospital today after an emergency operation for appendicitis.

Miss Leighton was taken suddenly ill on Sunday morning and operated on the same evening.

Her part is being played by her understudy, Miss June Morhouse.—Reuter.

Churchill's Hand Is Better

London, Dec. 29.

Londoners who saw Sir Winston Churchill arrive at 10 Downing Street today after his Christmas break noticed that his bandaged left hand was no longer in a sling.

The Prime Minister burned his hand when a box of matches slipped up at a dinner party just before Christmas.

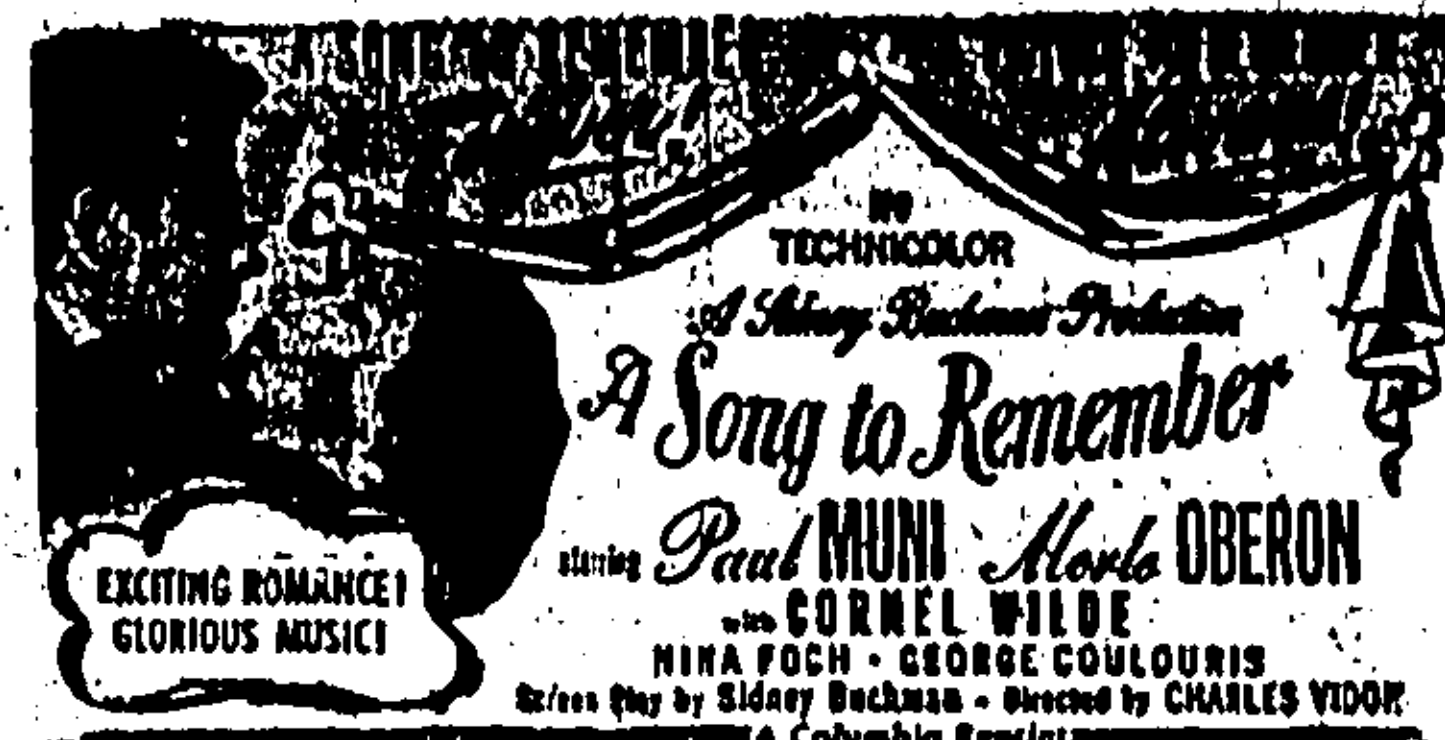
When he left for his country home, Chequers, in Buckinghamshire, the arm was in a sling.

The injury showed obvious improvement today, for Sir Winston Churchill, who was wearing a cast-coloured jacket, was holding a glass of wine in his left hand.

KING

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: This picture (Brand new print) will not be shown in the Colony again for some time to come.

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RUSSIA'S BIG GOLD SHIPMENTS

40 Tons More For U.K.

London, Dec. 29. Port authorities reported tonight that Russia had sent five ships with 40 more tons of gold to Britain in the past week.

The new disclosures followed the arrival of two tons by air only last night.

They brought the total value of Soviet gold imports during the past week to at least \$46,000,000.

Letting Off A Car Thief

Goshen, Indiana, Dec. 29. A conscience-stricken farmer turned himself over to Sheriff Vernon Cripe, said he was guilty of a car theft and wanted to make restitution.

But the sheriff freed the farmer when he learned that the car was stolen "in 1924."

Goshen's crime records do not go back that far.—United Press.

"No Evidence Of Big Slump In U.S."

Washington, Dec. 29. The Republican majority leader in the Senate, Senator William Knowland, of California, today took issue with the view expressed by 300 of the nation's leading economists that the United States faced the prospect of an "orthodox recession."

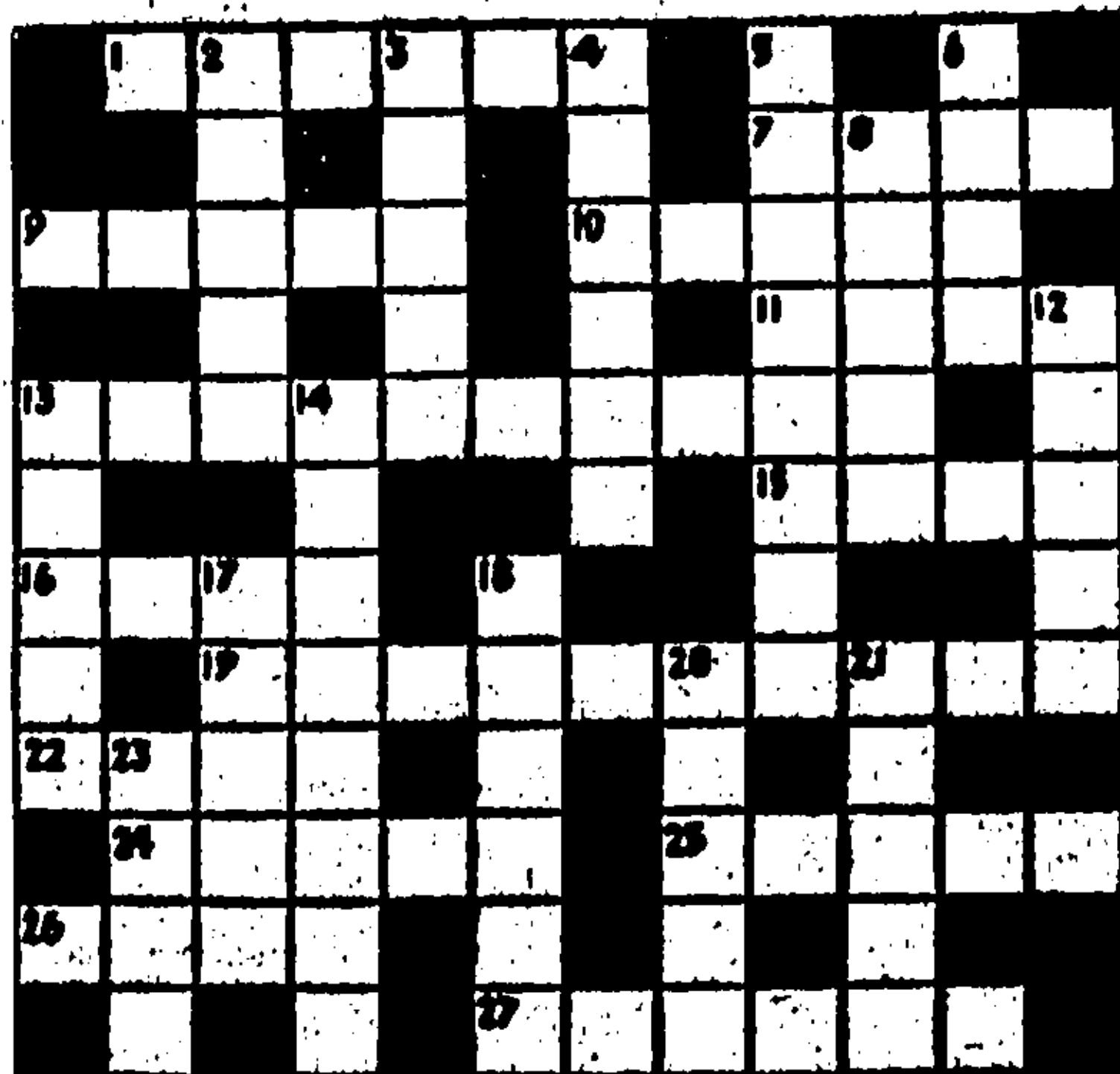
The economists, attending the annual forecasting session of the American Statistical Association, believe that industrial production in 1954 would be reduced from \$10,000,000,000 to \$18,000,000,000 below the record high level of 1953.

"There are no indications of a substantial recession or depression. There have been some adjustments from the wartime highs, but no one expected an economy based on wartime peaks," Senator Knowland said.

The economists believed the level of activity in 1954 would be about five per cent below that of 1953, leaving the coming year the second most prosperous in the nation's history.

U.S. ECONOMY EXAMINED—SEE P9

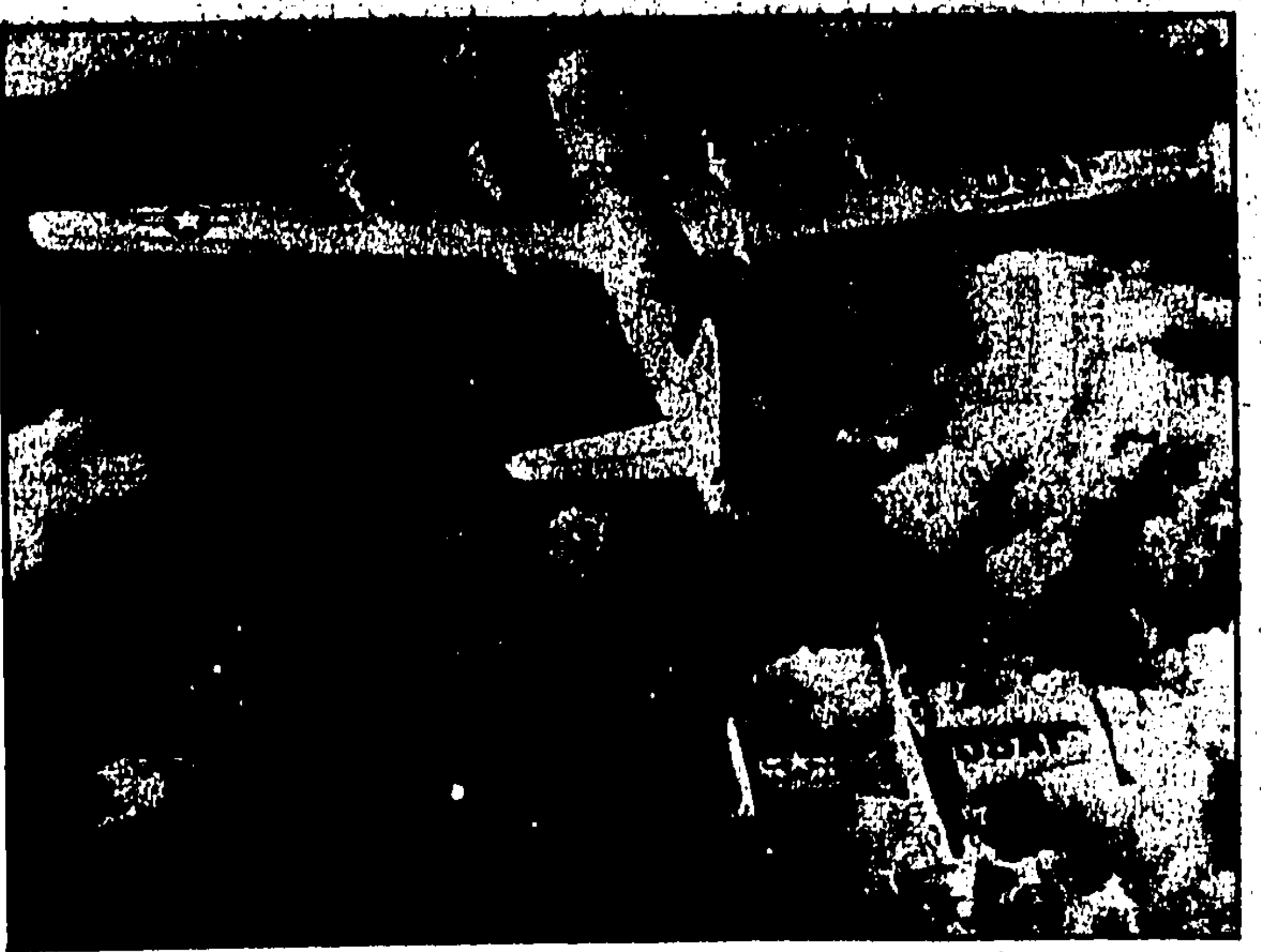
A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
1. Street trader (8).
 7. Girl's name (4).
 9. Sword (5).
 10. Foundations (5).
 11. Paradise (4).
 13. Trying (10).
 15. Trial (4).
 16. Equipped with footwork (4).
 19. Gives in (10).
 20. Sea in motion (4).
 24. Rude (6).
 25. Mixture (8).
 26. Blank (6).
 27. Thrown out (6).
- DOWN**
2. Path of planet (6).
 3. Unit of heat (5).
 4. Discount (5).
 5. Took ill (6).
 6. In addition (4).
 8. Shelf (5).
 12. Observe (5).
 13. Donkeys (5).
 14. Leading (5).
 17. Willow (5).
 18. Margin (6).
 20. Fine (5).
 21. Upright (5).
 23. Accurate (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Thrill, 4. Appeal, 7. Lizard, 8. Reticent, 10. Chief, 12. Alarmed, 13. Roamy, 14. Tidy, 15. Wreck, 16. Valuing, 17. Dismiss, 18. Bury, 20. Ruck, 22. Curious, 23. Litter, 24. Suffer, 25. Battered, 26. Suffer, 27. Curious.

GOLD It Took 2½ Minutes To Refuel This Thunderjet In Mid-Air



A U.S. Air Force Thunderjet fighter slides the tip tank on its wing into the funnel-like nozzle of the refueling hose of a tanker plane as it refueled over the Philippines during a recent non-stop flight from Southern Japan to Bangkok, Thailand. The refueling operation in flight took only two and a half minutes. The non-stop flight from Japan to Thailand was made in six and a half hours.

"Abominable Snowman Is Not Likely To Be Caught"—Tensing

Calcutta, Dec. 29. Tensing Norkey, Nepalese sherpa who conquered Mt Everest with Britain's Sir Edmund Hillary, said today he believed that the mysterious "Abominable Snowman" existed and that a new British expedition would throw much light on the beast said to haunt the Himalayan heights.

Tensing said that he was pleased that a British expedition would leave early next year to trace the snowman, known locally as "Yeti."

But he said he doubted that the expedition would capture the so-called "Snowman".

Ike Must Look Forward To Elections

Washington, Dec. 29. President Eisenhower faces a stiff uphill battle in the 1954 Congress to achieve the sort of record on which his party can depend for votes in the November congressional elections.

The Democrats are now fighting to regain control of the House and are sure to be less co-operative than in the previous "honeymoon" session.

While the President has been advised to limit his programme to a few major issues there is still a heavy and controversial backlog which he must send forward for action.

These include bills on tax revision, expansion of reciprocal trade agreements, foreign aid, farm subsidies, expanded social security benefits and the revision of the labour laws as demanded by the powerful trade unions.

Most congressmen will want to get away from Washington to begin campaigning in earnest by the end of July for the November election. Many Republican strategists feel that if a heavy legislative list is sent to Congress many of the bills will have to be shelved, thereby creating an unfavourable background for their campaigns.—China Mail Special.

He Hopes To Sell His Trawlers To Russia

London, Dec. 29. A British businessman, Mr Harry Dowsett, left here by air today for Moscow to seek orders for his shipyards in the little East coast port of Lowestoft.

He was in Moscow three months ago when he spent a week negotiating with the Russians.

Before he left today, he said: "This is a continuation of these talks which concern trawlers and other vessels required by Russia."

When Mr Dowsett last visited Moscow, he could not complete a contract because the British Government had to give approval before ships for Russia could be built in British yards.

Since then, however, permission to build trawlers has been given.

Gaol For Four E. German Policemen

Berlin, Dec. 29. The West Berlin and Communist Information Bureau said today an East German court at Potsdam had sentenced four policemen to prison terms between 18 months and three years for visiting West Berlin.

All were members of the East German border police, stationed in East Berlin. They had stolen orders not to visit West Berlin. But they had put on civilian clothes after duty and made several trips.—Reuter.

Alleged Israeli Attack On Arab Shepherds

Amman, Dec. 29. Arab Legion headquarters reported today that Arab shepherds were attacked yesterday in the Heron district inside Jordan by an Israeli infantry patrol accompanied by armoured cars.

The Arab Legion alleged that the Israelis, after crossing the demarcation line, fired on the Arab shepherds and tried to steal their sheep.

The shepherds returned the fire, an Arab Legion patrol went to their assistance and the Israelis suffered some losses.

The Jordan armistice delegation has been informed of the incident, Arab Legion headquarters said, and has asked for a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission.—France Press.

RED DRIVE IN ASIA

"Fallen Short Of Target"

New York, Dec. 30. With the single exception of China, the Communist drive in Asia had fallen far short of its objectives, former United States Ambassador to India Chester Bowles said today.

But, if the Communist parties in India and the other Asian countries shifted their allegiance from Moscow to Peking, their prospects would improve dangerously, he warned.

Writing in the new issue of Harper's Magazine, he said, "An objective picture of Indian Communism shows a party with powerful potential, but on the other side of the ledger are certain other considerations of considerable weight."

Throughout the world the Communists have come to power either through direct invasion or threat of invasion, or by the genius of a master revolutionary, he said.

He added, however, "neither of these conditions now exists in India."

An attack from the north was unlikely, he pointed out, but added that Communist invasion of South-East Asia through Burma would change the picture.

MOSCOW v PEKING.

No one could say there was not an Indian to lead the people in a Communist revolt, but so far there has been no one to meet the public eye who had been able to master the materials of the Indian social change, he said.

Mr Bowles added that the Indian Communists still had to live down their days of collaboration with the British during the independence movement.

A growing minority of Communists in India would like to shift their allegiance to Peking, but the majority of them still looked to Moscow.

He warned, however, that the emergence of Maoism as the dominant Communist power in Asia seemed a strong possibility because of the strains and stresses that followed Stalin's death in Russia.

Whether it would or not depended not so much on what the Communists had done, he said, but on what the young Indians and other Asians believed they could do in the future.—United Press.

How They Tell Good Planets From Bad Ones

Paris, Dec. 29. The Belgian astrologer, Andre Florisone, revealed today the formula he uses to find out whether the influence of a given planet is good or bad.

Speaking at the seventh Congress of Astrology, he said he divided the mass of the planet by the cube of its distance from the Sun. If the resulting figure was above one, then the planet in question had a "good" influence.

He said that Jupiter and Venus were benevolent in this manner, that Mercury was "sometimes good and sometimes bad."

The Belgian astrologer claimed that the influence of the planets varied with their distance from the Sun. Saturn, he said, was neither good nor bad as it remained at the same distance from the Sun.

M. Florisone argued on this basis that it was not important under which star human beings were born, and that only the planets and the Sun, which astrologically is counted as a planet, mattered.

He was opposed to the beliefs of the "intuitive" astrologers, and insisted that if they wished to be considered by scientists, the astrologers should speak to the scientists scientifically.—France Press.

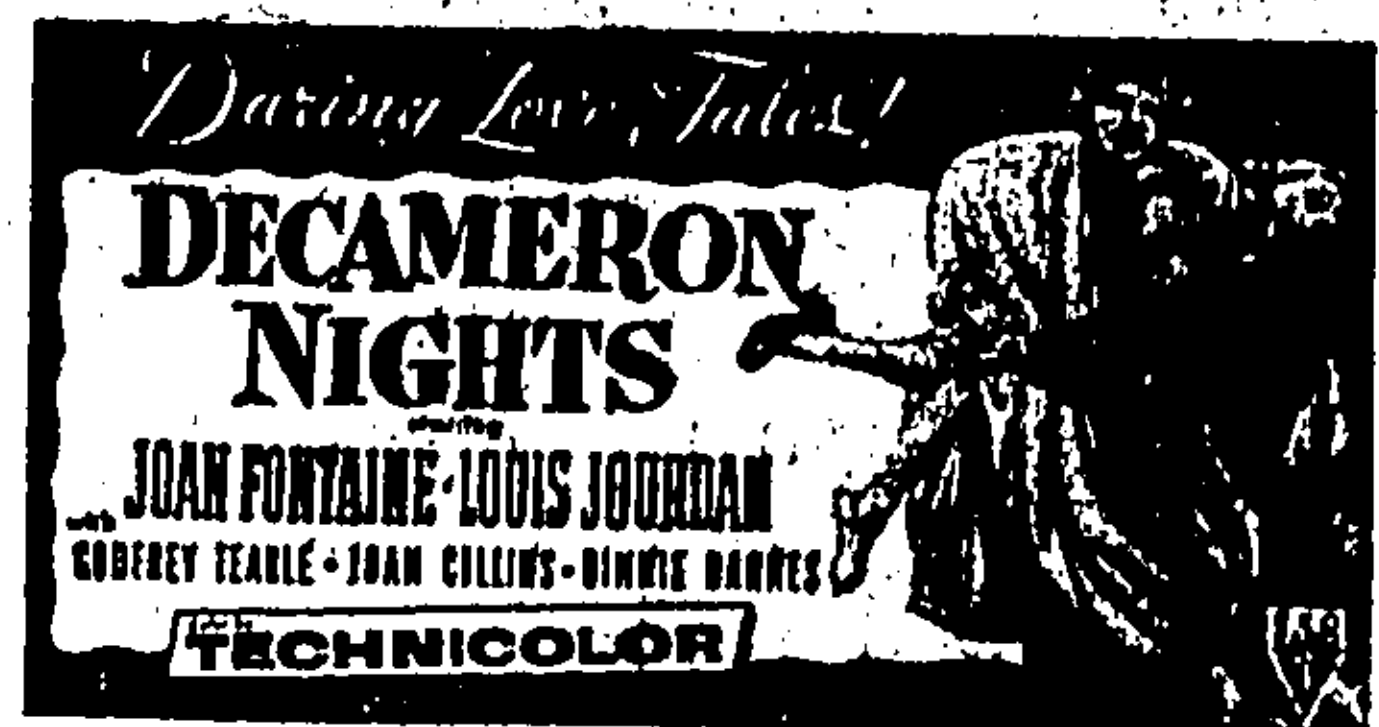
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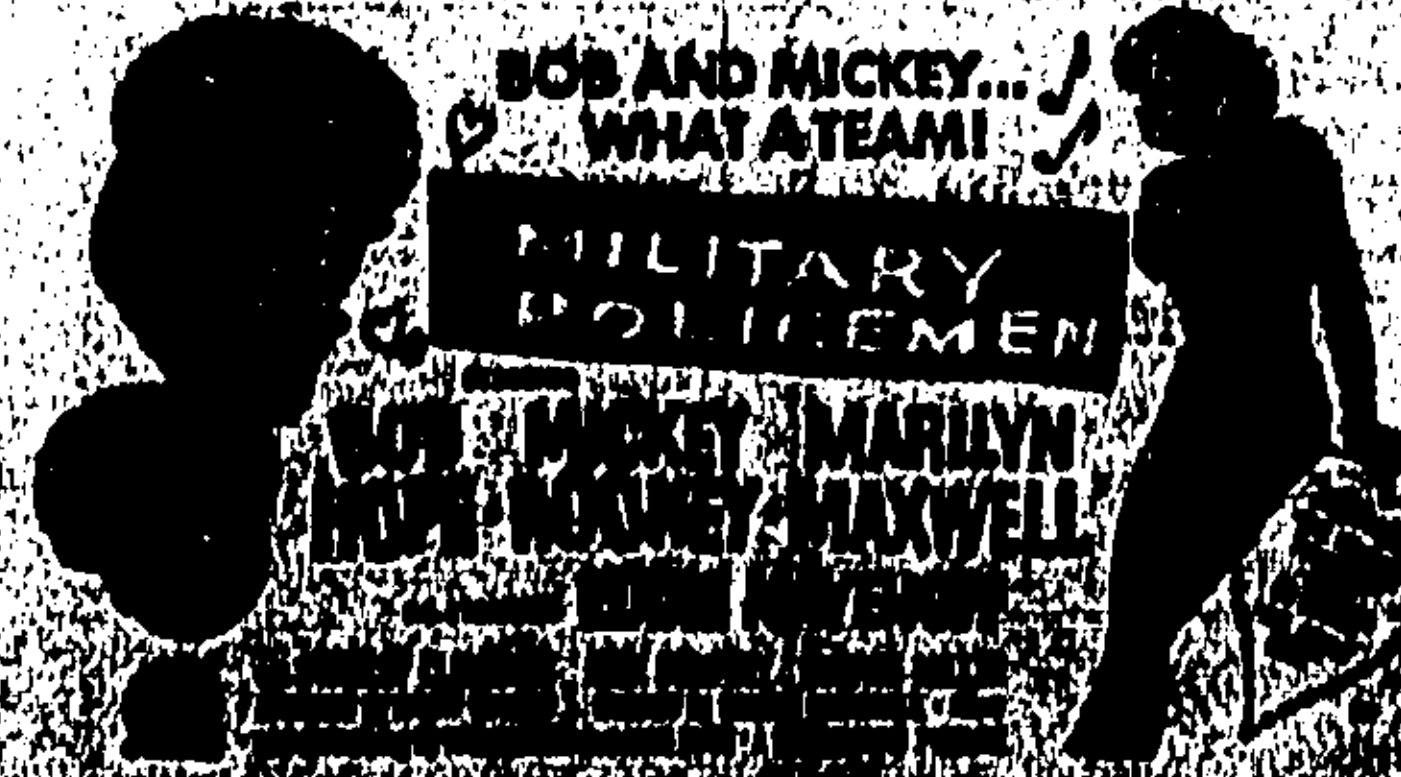
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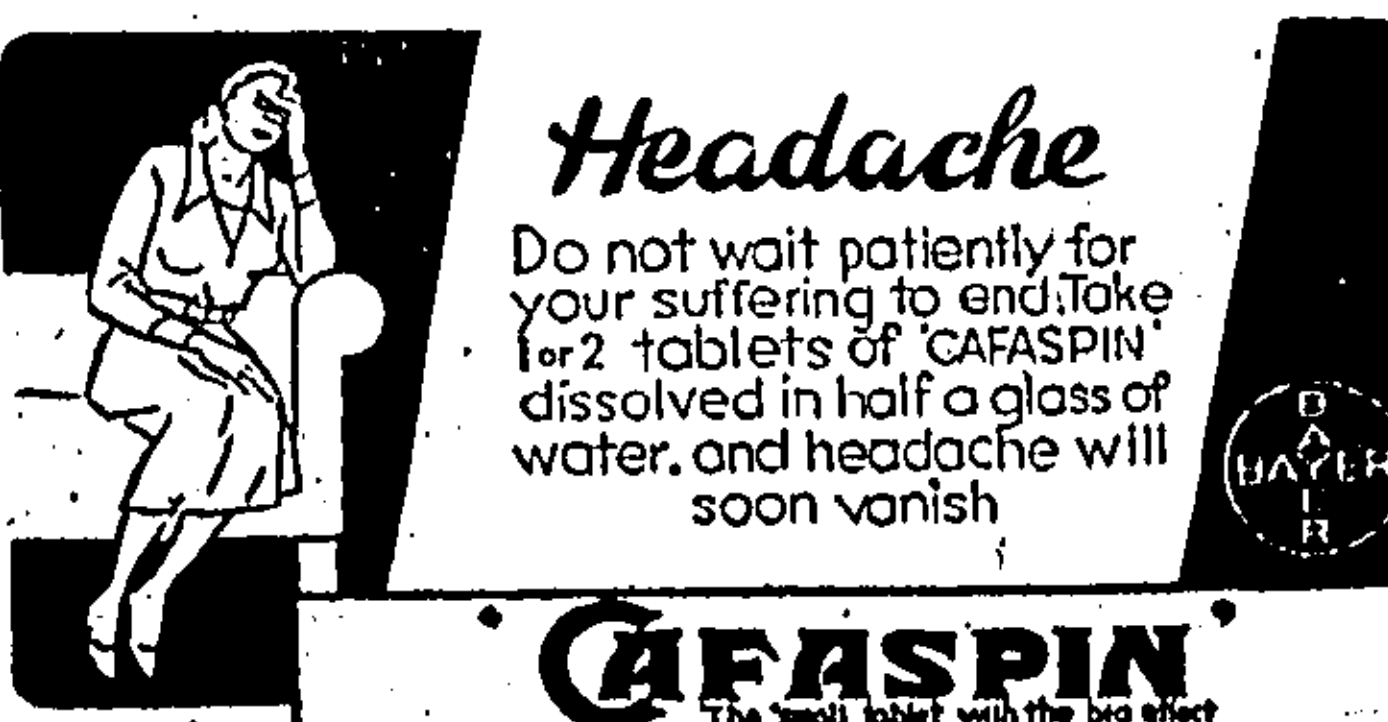
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SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WAR MEMOIRS

"TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY," CHAPTER 38

THE POLISH PROBLEM STILL UNRESOLVED

VICTORY over Japan was neither the most difficult nor perhaps the most far-reaching of the problems which confronted us at the Potsdam Conference. Germany had collapsed; Europe must be rebuilt. The soldier must go home and the refugee return, if he could, to his country. Above all, the nations must make a peace in which they could live together if not in comfort, at any rate in freedom and safety.

I do not intend to recount our detailed exchanges in formal conference and in private conversation on all the urgent and multitudinous questions which pressed upon us. Many of them are still unresolved. Poland, for whom Britain went to war, is neither free nor quiet; Germany is still divided; there is no peace with Russia.

Russia's share of Poland, Poland's share of Germany, and the place of Germany and the Soviet Union in the world, such were the topics which dominated our discussions, and to which, for reasons of space, this account must be limited.

We had agreed at Yalta that Russia should advance her western front into Poland as far as the Curzon Line. We had always recognised that Poland in her turn should receive substantial accessions of German territory. The question was how much? How far into Germany should she go? There had been much disagreement. Stalin had

swollen population. For the future peace of Europe there was a wrong beside which Alsace-Lorraine and the Danzig Corridor were trifles. One day the Germans would want their territory back, and the Poles would not be able to stop them.

THE first plenary session of the Conference was held at five o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 17. Stalin proposed that the President should take the chair. I supported this, and Mr Truman accepted our invitation. A number of lesser problems then appeared. Mr Truman proposed that Italy should join the United Nations, and that the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, Russia, China, France, and the United States should draft the peace treaties and boundary settlements of Europe. I was doubtful about both these suggestions.

Although we had suffered heavy naval losses in the Mediterranean we had much goodwill to Italy, and had provided 14 out of the 15 ships which Russia claimed for the Italian Fleet. But I said bluntly that the British people would not easily forget that Italy declared war on the Commonwealth in the hour of her greatest peril, when French resistance was on the point of collapse; nor could they overlook the long struggle against her in North Africa, before America came into the war.

Stalin was just as doubtful about asking China to join the Council of Foreign Ministers. Why should she deal with questions which were primarily European ones? And why have this new body at all? We had the European Advisory Commission, and we had agreed at Yalta to regular meetings of the three Foreign Secretaries. Another organisation would only complicate matters, and anyway when would the Peace Conference be held?

that if the importance of secrecy and quiet for those engaged in the Conference were explained to them they would take their exclusion with a good grace. Stalin irritably asked what all the journalists wanted, and Mr Truman said that each of us had his own representative to stand between him and the Press. We had agreed to exclude them, and matters should be left as they were. I submitted to the majority, but I thought and still think that a public explanation would have been better.

The Foreign Secretaries then produced their plan for drafting the European peace treaties. The Council would still consist of the Foreign Ministers of the five Powers enumerated by the President, but only those who had signed the articles of surrender imposed on the enemy State concerned would draw up the terms of settlement.

This we agreed to, but I was concerned at an American proposal to submit the terms to the United Nations. I pointed out that if this meant consulting every member of the United Nations it would be a lengthy and laborious process, and I should be sorry to agree to it.

Mr Byrnes said we were so bound by the United Nations Declaration, but both he and Stalin admitted that reference to the United Nations could only be made after the five Powers had agreed among themselves. I left it at that.

Then there was Germany. The exact powers of the Control Council, economic questions, the disposal of the Nazi Fleet, none were ready for discussion. "What," I asked, "is meant by Germany?" "What she has become after the war," said Stalin. "The Germany of 1937," said Mr Truman.

Stalin said it was impossible to get away from the war. The country no longer existed. There were no definite frontiers, no control, no guards, no troops, merely four occupied zones. At length we agreed to take the Germany of 1937 as a starting point. This shelved the problem, and we turned to Poland.

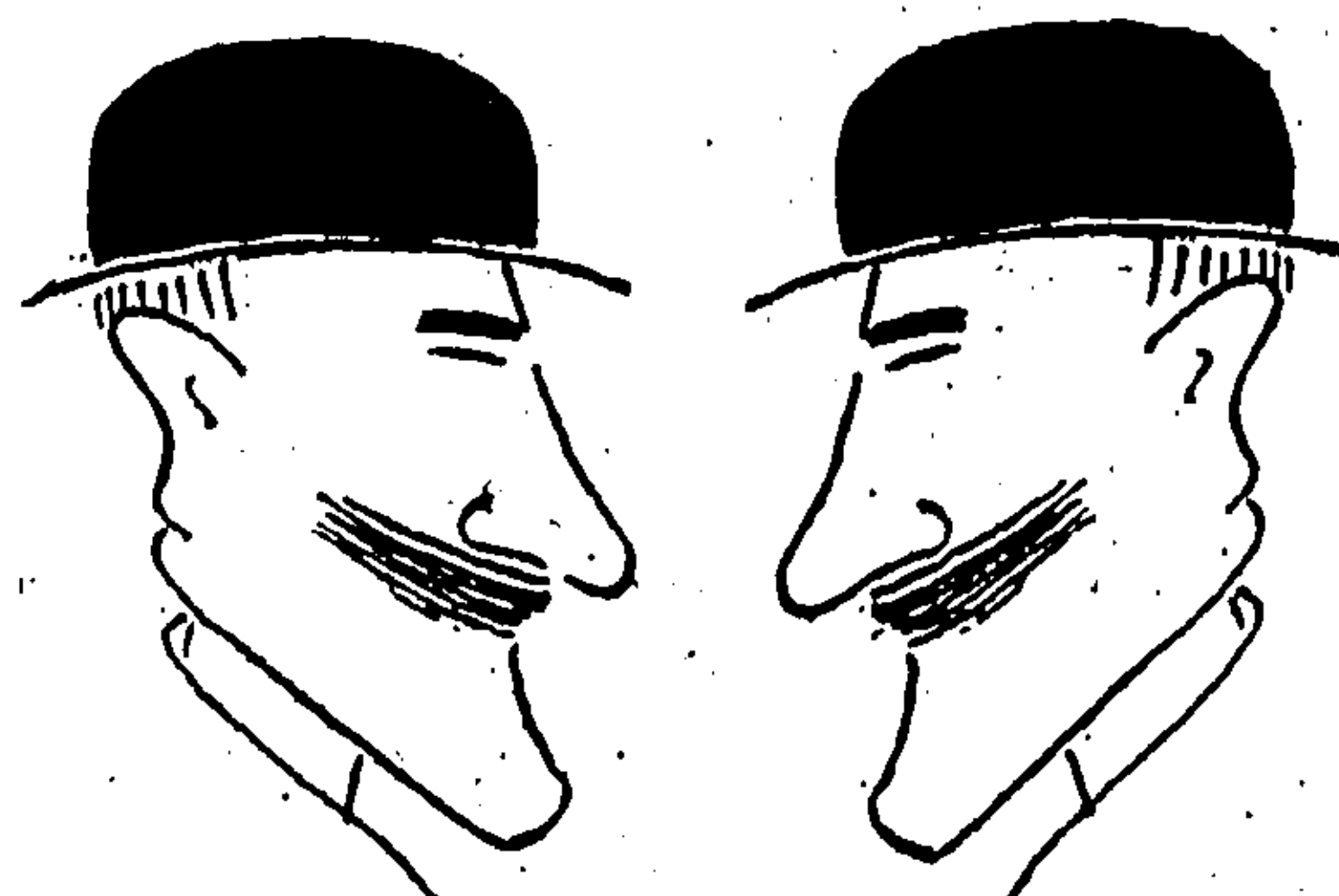
STALIN thereupon proposed the immediate transfer to the Lublin (Communist) Poles "of all stocks, assets, and all other property belonging to Poland which is still at the disposal of the Polish Government in London, in whatever form this property may be and no matter where or at whose disposal this property may prove to be at the present moment." He also wanted the Polish armed forces, including the Navy and merchant marine, to be subordinated to the Lublin Poles. This led me to speak at some length.

The burden lay on British shoulders. When their homeland had been overrun and they had been driven from France many Poles had sheltered upon our shores. There was no worthwhile property belonging to the Polish Government in London, I said. I believed there was about £200,000 in gold in London and Canada. This had been frozen by us, since it was an asset of the Central Bank of Poland.

Unfreezing and moving it to a Central Polish Bank must follow the normal channels for such transfers. It was not the property of the Polish Government in London, and they had no power to draw upon it. There was of course the Polish Embassy in London, which was open and available for a Polish Ambassador as soon as the new Polish Government cared to send one—and the sooner the better.

IN view of this one might well ask how the Polish Government had been financed during their 5½ years in the United Kingdom. The answer was that it had been supported by the British Government, who had paid the Poles about £120,000,000 to finance their Army and enable them to look after Poles who had sought refuge on our shores from the German scourge. When we had disavowed the Polish Government in London and recognised the Provisional Polish Government, it was arranged that three months' salary should be paid to all employees, and that they should then be dismissed. It would have been impossible to have dismissed them without this payment, for the Poles had had to pay for their expenses.

NATHANIEL GUBBINS



Strategist No. 1.
(drawn by Gubbins.)

Strategist No. 2.
(also by Gubbins.)

ALL right, old man, if you want to scuttle out of the Suez Canal that's your affair. Nobody was talking about scuttling, old man.

We might not have used the word, old man, but if giving up a life line of the Empire at the orders of an upstart dictator isn't scuttling, then you can call me the Queen of Sheba.

I have no intention of calling you the Queen of Sheba, old man. All I want to know is, "What is your alternative?"

My alternative is very simple, old man. A couple of squadrons of the R.A.F. could blow Egypt to bits in 20 minutes.

I think it would take a little longer than that, old man.

All right, then, old man. Half an hour. A few hundred tons of bombs on Cairo, and Naguib would be eating out of our hands. Egyptians are not the sort of people who can take it, old man.

Probably not, old man. But they're full of low cunning. I suppose you must have heard of the Russian Army?

Nobody said you were, old man. In that case I can't see what the Russian Army's got to do with Egypt.

Let me try to explain, old man. Certainly. Fire away, old man.

Well, old man, you must know, as the Egyptians know, that international affairs have become so involved that you can't start a little war anywhere without running the risk of touching off a world war. If you blow Egypt to bits how do you know the Russians wouldn't take her side and blow us to bits?

How do they know we wouldn't blow them to bits first, old man?

We can't blow everybody to bits, old man.

Perhaps not, old man, though it might not be a bad idea. But if you're going to scuttle out of every place in the Empire in case the Russians blow us to bits we might as well give up. Glue up what, old man?

Give up the Empire and stay at home and play marbles.

I don't see any reason why we should play marbles, old man.

I don't remember calling anybody a fly-livered pacifist, old man. And what's more, I'm not accustomed to being called an old-fashioned reactionary.

Nobody called you an old-fashioned reactionary, old man. In that case I must be getting deaf, old man.

So must I, old man. I rather hoped this was going to be a friendly argument, old man.

I rather hoped so, old man. Perhaps we'd better forget it.

Perhaps we had, old man. Good-night, old man.

Letter To A Stomach

MY DEAR STOMACH,

SURGEONS at Pittsburgh, U.S., who discovered that Paul Hockendoner, aged 18, had two stomachs, removed the additional organ.

visualise some of the advantages this fortunate young man might have enjoyed. If they had interfered with a condition which would have proved interesting both from a personal and medical point of view it allowed to take its natural course.

One obvious advantage is that if Mr Hockendoner ever developed a taste for living he could have used one stomach to deal with solids and the other to deal with liquids.

Although I have no wish to introduce a personal note here, I think that your many indications over the years might have stemmed less formidable if I had been lucky enough to have the help of a twin brother. A twin brother would also have proved his worth as an alternative stomach at feasts and festivals such as Christmas.

For instance, I could have been on duty during Christmas Eve while my brother remained in reserve for Christmas Day. Then when he was knocked out I could take over on Boxing Day.

An arrangement like this would have made it possible to ensure a handover in one stomach while the other ate and fresh after a 24-hour rest, would be in a position to accept any breakfast you cared to send down. In fact, with two stomachs, you might have lived a little longer, fuller, and happier life, always at the top of your form, always ready to do more work, and therefore able to afford the luxuries your stomachs could digest.

Taking all these points into consideration, I am therefore convinced that the American surgeons were guilty of a grave error of judgment in removing Mr. Hockendoner's second stomach. I also think they were guilty of cruelty because, so far as I am aware, this is the first time a stomach has had a companion, to talk to and discuss events of the day during the lonely, dark hours of the night when stomachs never sleep.

Hoping this letter of explanation meets with your approval,

I remain, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
N. GUBBINS.

Dear Sir, In reply to your undated letter I have to inform you that I have given the matter mentioned therein my fullest consideration, and have reached the conclusion that the operation was ill-considered. Before the surgeons made their decision I think they should have consulted me.

FIRST OPEN ATHLETIC MEETING OF THE SEASON ON JANUARY 10

The Hongkong Amateur Athletic Association's Executive Committee at a meeting held at the Education Department Conference Room last night decided to make the first athletic meeting of the new year on January 10 an open meeting.

The decision was reached following a request from the Army representative to postpone the annual Quadrangular meeting planned for the same date as the Army had little information at this early stage of the season of the athletic talent at its disposal.

Closing date for entries for the January 10 meeting will be Thursday, January 7. There will be an entry fee of \$3 per event to cover the cost of prizes which will be awarded to the first three in each event. Interested competitors are urged to contact the Hon. Secretary

of the HKAAA, P. O. Box 280, as early as possible to obtain their entry forms.

The meeting yesterday set the following standards as a guide to athletes who wish to compete:

100 yds 10.8 secs; 220 yds 25 secs; 440 yds 50 secs; 880 yds 2

mins; 12 secs; Mile 5 mins; 3 miles 18 mins; 120 yds Hurdles 18 secs; 440 yds Hurdles 70 secs; Long Jump 18 ft.; High Jump 5 ft. 3 ins; Hop Step Jump 63 ft.; Pole Vault 8 ft. 6 ins; Shot put 33 ft.; Discus 85 ft.; Hammer throw 80 ft.; Javelin 120 ft.; Mile Walk 8 mins; 45 secs.

The meeting remains open to all who wish to take part, but those unacquainted with the local standard, and novices particularly, are advised that these standards are the absolute minimum that would permit a newcomer a reasonable showing against the known best in the Colony.

The standards in the four ladies' events on the programme are—100 Yards—13 seconds; 220 Yards—30 seconds; High Jump—4 feet; Long Jump—13 feet.

Newcomers and novices still wishing to take part are welcome, but are likely to be rather outclassed. Novices will be catered for with at least one more full novices' meeting this season and with special novices' events at other meetings.

HONOURS LIST

By HENRY LONGHURST

It is the custom of "this column," as the saying is, to award Christmas decorations to the more notable performers of the year. They need not have earned their distinction actually on the links, but this year the premier award must on all counts go to the premier golfer.

His presence at Carnoustie not only "made" the Open Championship, but his victory in many ways completed the making of Ben Hogan.

It set the seal on his career—for there remain many good judges of golf in America who do not deem a man's reputation complete until he has proved that he can win with a small ball on seaside links as well as with a big one teed up on lush fairways—and without it they would never have driven him down Broadway.

Not only for his golf, but also for his diplomacy in the strange surroundings of Carnoustie he tops the list.

Among the amateurs we salute Joe Carr, again not merely because he won the Championship. On the Walker Cup tour in Canada and the United States, Joe had a thoroughly wretched time of it—on the golf course, he could not putt, and when he recaptured his putting he could not drive.

Through all this he proved himself a good and cheerful trouper, capturing people's affections both for himself and the team in general.

The hero of the trip must also have his Christmas card—John

Morgan. It is no mean thing to win both your matches in America, hold the Pine Valley at first sight in 70, and go farther than anyone in the American championship.

We lift our paper hat at this season also to Gerald Micklem, whose genius for organising continues to go unappreciated.

When at long last, it seemed that the weather was going to suit the tournament for the President's Putter, Micklem in a few hours not only reorganised the draw, changed the date of the dinner and contrived to inform all concerned, but also won the tournament.

Nor will his defeat of Ronnie White in the final of the English Championship be forgotten by any who saw it.

IRISH HEROES

Across the water we bow gratefully to the suppression of friends, old and new, who nearly killed our Walker Cup team with kindness in Montreal, Kiltanet and Oklahoma City, nor forgetting two who conveyed us in their private aeroplanes, in one instance complete with glamorous private secretary to act as stewards.

At home the Ryder Cup match produced a number of figures worthy of the Christmas honour list. The two heroes from Ireland, of course, Daly and Bradshaw, whose point in the four-somes alone made the second day worthwhile.

In the singles, Daly's 60 gave heart to the whole team while Bradshaw brought up the rear in less spectacular but equally valuable style.

Remarkably later, in an attempt to justify having described Bradshaw's method as "agricultural," that he moved his head about 18 inches and that for that matter Daly moved his about a foot, I received a note from Ireland "respectfully suggesting" that, if this were so, "the English professionals might usefully start moving their heads about 24 inches—for which the writer hereby also receives his Christmas card."

Another, for the same occasion, goes to Anthony Craxton, of the BBC television service. It was Craxton who was responsible not only for producing the actual televising of the Ryder Cup match but also, through personal enthusiasm, for the fact that it was televised at all.

Many, including to a certain degree myself, thought that golf would have a somewhat limited appeal. This turned out to be gloriously contrary to the truth.

Research reveals a response equal to that of ordinary Test cricket—though not, of course, to the final Test—and innumerable non-golfers found themselves intrigued with the game and surprised that they could see so much of it and so closely.

So the Ryder Cup match, agonising though its end may have been, may well be the seeds of bringing new interest and fun to thousands of people who would never otherwise have contemplated playing golf themselves. After all, when you have actually seen Mangrum taking 300 yds, there is hope

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Details Wanted

Sir,—May I advance the plea that you do all in your power to obtain adequate details of cricket matches involving the MCC and Commonwealth teams currently touring the West Indies and India?

I am sure that other cricket enthusiasts in Hongkong—and we are legion—find it as infuriating as I do to read that Barrie was 98 not out overnight, and to read, in the next report, a bald statement that his team were all out without any mention of his own score.

Again, when the MCC scores, say, 198 for 5, we like to know how many Hutton or Compton scored, or must we wait for Wisden or The Cricketer.

PRO BARRICK.

Combined Navy And Air Force To Play Cricket Club

The following have been selected to represent a Combined Royal Navy and Royal Air Force cricket eleven to play the Hongkong Cricket Club at Chater Road on Friday, New Year's Day. Game commences at 11.30 a.m.

Surg. Cmdr. Pearson (RN), F/Lt. Cairn (RAF), Lt. Dickens (RN), Lt. Sadler (RN), F/O Stappard (RAF), L/Sgt. Sims (RN), F/Sgt. Horsham (RAF), Cpl. West (RAF), LAC Armstrong (RAF), LAC Healy (RAF), LAC Hughes (RAF), Twelfth man—LAC Horne (RAF). Scorer—LAC Markham (RAF).

LECTURE ON REFEREEING

A public lecture on the Laws of the Game and the Art of Football Refereeing will be given by Mr. G. Clark of London on Monday, January 4, 1954, at the Hongkong Football Club (by kind permission) at 8 p.m. sharp.

All registered referees and those interested are cordially invited to attend.

LIGHT BLUES IN MADRID

Madrid, Dec. 29.—A Cambridge University Rugby Union 15 team, headed by "Blues" captain, is expected to arrive here today.

FERRARI CHANGES HIS MIND



After having won the 1953 World's Automobile Championship, the Italian racing car builder, Enzo Ferrari, announced that owing to lack of money he would not be competing next year. Now, after a meeting held at his headquarters at Modena, Italy, he has officially announced that his cars will compete in the 1954 World Championship.

Seen here in happy mood after the meeting are (left to right): Gigi Villorosi, Enzo Ferrari and the World Champion, Alberto Ascari.—Express Photo.

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

Umberto Could Stage A Comeback Next Season

By JAMES PARK

I was talking to an Irish handicapper recently and he asked me how I accounted for the autumn lapses of Umberto. Major Turner had been to Doncaster in St. Leger week and was much impressed with the colt's appearance and the style in which he did his work.

I agreed and went so far as to say that the colt made some appeal as a Derby proposition.

"Did he just train off or what happened?" I was asked. That was not so easy to answer but I expressed the opinion that the loss of form might have been brought about by the change in the going.

When Umberto went to the post for the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot in September, he looked like his usual robust self and was perfectly cool and collected.

STRONG FORCE

He continued to be a strong force in the market and wound up an even-money chance. The going was heavy, but I should say Ken Gehlin was quite happy for about half-way. The race was run over the Old Mile and just before reaching the turn into the straight the colt was asked to take his place with the leaders.

He once almost got in touch with them, but half-way up the straight he was foundering. He seemed to be all at sea on the going, as the manner in which he had finished the seven furlongs at Doncaster had suggested an abundance of stamina.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD S. Australia Beat Queensland

Adelaide, Dec. 29.—South Australia beat Queensland by 83 runs today in their Sheffield Shield match.

Declaring their second innings at 222 for eight, South Australia left Queensland to score 320 runs if they were to win, but they were all out for 245.

Final scores were—South Australia 414 and 222 for eight; Queensland 308 and 245.—Reuter.

VICTORIA FACE DEFEAT

Melbourne, Dec. 29.—Victoria, facing defeat in their Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales and may be beaten by lunch time tomorrow.

They followed on 155 runs behind today, and at the close of play were 210 for eight, only 55 runs ahead with two wickets in hand.

Scores—New South Wales 401; Victoria 300 and 210 for eight.—Reuter.

True, Umberto was taking on something as the pace was won by Imagination, who later took the Dowry Stakes and was awarded St. Leger. But Umberto was also beaten on merit by Wylve Valley and Tarjoman, and that could not have been anticipated.

A fortnight later over the same course and on sounder going Umberto did nothing to retrieve his reputation. He was well enough placed for half way, but found nothing when it was required.

STYLISH VICTORY

When winning three races in a row it had seemed there was a bright future for Umberto. He sailed away from Competitor at Salisbury and was again impressive with a stylish victory over five furlongs at Ascot in July.

Then came the Doncaster victory when he commanded the opposition, at every point. He was not off the bit until the last furlong and was still full of running when the winning post was reached.

That day Umberto stood out by himself in the paddock. He appeared to be getting bigger and stronger with every appearance and captured the imagination of all the paddock critics. There is no doubt another furlong would not have troubled Umberto and a two-year-old who can stay a mile on the straight Doncaster course is not lacking in stamina.

How then are we to explain away those two mediocre performances at Ascot? As I have said, he looked as well as ever. I am afraid we shall have to leave the answer to Umberto's first appearance as a three-year-old.

Umberto cost only 810 guineas as a yearling and his pedigree is a record of staying blood in his pedigree.

He is by Umdwar out of the Donatello II mare, Shello, whose dam Show Girl (dam of the 1,000 Guineas winner, Dancing Time) was by that great stayer Son-in-Law out of Comedy Star, a half sister to the Derby winner, Call Boy.

If Umberto had finished for the season with the Doncaster victory, I am sure he would have had more than St. Leger in the Free Handicap. Do not, be

DESMOND HACKETT Says LET'S HELP BOYS LIKE MILLER

The Russians are coming, prepared to meet our bravest and fairest in athletic competition at London's White City next September.

You can bet your last rouble that the training plan has already been blue—or maybe red—printed and that the husky comrades are doing their athletic homework in the people's stadiums.

There are 4,000,000 athletes all neatly State registered, and it is stipulated that one and all have every facility to train. A splendid thing, too. This State investment in an athletic youth is a mighty fine thing.

The Iron Curtain athletes will come here as determined to win as were the Hungarian football invaders. And, my hearers, they will make much of any success over England.

England will, as ever, depend on that gallant little band who to win as were the Hungarian football invaders. And, my hearers, they will make much of any success over England.

I met one such young hope of England at the London University sports ground on a Saturday morning. Charles Miller, an 18-year-old, 6ft., 2ins. 13st. athlete who is determined to become an ace among hurdlers.

EARLY TO RISE

His three-year-plan aims at gaining a place in the British Olympic team of 1956. This is no schoolboy dream. There is no time for dreaming in the tough time-table set by Miller, especially on Saturday mornings.

Miller is up and about in his Kent village of Highgate before even the farmhouse lights are blinking through the damp, dark morning.

By 6.30 a.m. he is on Gravesend station for the workman's cheap-fare train. His pocket money will not run to the higher-priced ordinary fare.

Miller trains alone on the London University track until England's No. 1 coach, Geoff Dyson, can take time out to give him expert treatment.

In between breathing spells artist-trainer Miller sketches such surrounding scenery as he can find.

Back home, the boy who quit all other sports in order to achieve athletic fame has only a bumpy downhill field and makeshift hurdles to help him train.

It is this kind of single-minded urge that can breed a team fit to stand up to the regimented athletes of other nations.

ENCOURAGE THEM

But it is not good enough. Commons, parks, and open spaces should be equipped to aid the ambitious and to encourage the young people who may at first try the sport for fun and suddenly find Miller's eagerness to succeed.

It would not cost the local authorities the earth to provide light sets of hurdles and rig up facilities for long jumpers and high jumpers along with the tennis courts, bowling greens, and putting greens.

THOMAS CUP ENTRIES

London, Dec. 29.—Entries for the Asiatic and Australasian zones of the Thomas Cup, the world's equivalent to the Davis Cup of lawn tennis—do not close until January 1 but Burma, Ceylon, India and Thailand have challenged in the Asiatic while Australia and New Zealand have entered in the Australasian zone.

The draw for play in these two competitions takes place in London on January 7. Entries to the European and American zones do not close until June 15 next.

This 1954-55 competition is the third in the Thomas Cup series. Malaysia having won the first two. The challenge round will be played in Malaysia between mid-May and mid-June, 1955.—Reuter.

Fifth Annual Motor Rally Planned

According to the Hongkong Automobile Association, the Main Motor Rally will take place on Saturday, January 16, consisting of approximately a six-hour night drive on routes laid out in Kowloon and the New Territories.

As in the past, cars will be divided into five classes, viz. under 1100 c.c.s. between 1101 to 1300 c.c.s., 1301 to 2000 c.c.s., 2001 to 2500 c.c.s. and over 2501 c.c.s. respectively, and prizes will be awarded to winners in each class.

On Sunday, January 17, there will be a Treasure Hunt to be held at Hongkong. Cars will start at the Murray Parade Ground at about 11.30 a.m., and will finish at the Hongkong Jockey Club at Happy Valley where elimination tests will be held, to be followed by the Concours d'Elegance.

This latter event is only open to members who have completed the course on Saturday evening, and there will be a prize each for winners of cars under 2000 and over 2000 c.c.s. respectively.

It is understood that the standard insurance policy covers participation in the Treasure Hunt, but a little extra premium will be required for participants in the Main Rally.

Members and service personnel are urged to send in their entries as soon as possible.

WEEK-END SOFTBALL

The following softball games are scheduled for Friday through Sunday. All games are to take place at King's Park, Kowloon.

Friday: Ladies International: Portugal v China at 2.30 p.m. Exhibition: HKSA Officials v Senior "B" at 4 p.m.

Saturday: Juniors: C.A.A. v Cubs, Pandas v L. Dodgers, both at 2 p.m. Seniors: "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L", "M", "N", "O", "P", "Q", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W", "X", "Y", "Z", both at 4 p.m.

Sunday: Ladies: South China v Wahoon "A", Wahoon "B" v College, both at 2.30 p.m. Seniors: "A", South China v Warriors at 11 a.m. C.A.A. v Pandas at 2 p.m. Seniors: "B", H.K.U. v Americans, Pandas v Delaware, both at 3.30 p.m.

WORRELL AND RAMADHIN FLYING HOME

Calcutta, Dec. 29.—Frank Worrell and Sanyal Ramadhin, the West Indies cricketers who have been assisting the Commonwealth team in India, left here by air today on the first stage of their journey home.

They are expected to play for the West Indies in the Test series against England. Their places in the Commonwealth touring side have been taken by Alan Watkins, the England and Glamorgan all-rounder, and Jack Iverson, the Australian Test spin bowler who was a "break" grip. Both Watkins and Iverson arrived here last night.—Reuter.

THE GAMBOLS

BUT I CAN'T COME—I HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING TO WEAR

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW DRESS YOU WORE YESTERDAY

HOW LIKE A MAN TO EXPECT ME TO WEAR THE SAME THING DAY AFTER DAY



BLUE BAND MARGARINE



BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO		
"FUKUEN"	Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	8 a.m. 31st Dec.
"RZCHUEN"	Tanjong Mani	Noon 31st Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 31st Dec.
"PETER REED"	Tanjong Mani	1st Jan.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD. JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO		
"TAIPING"	Kuro & Kobe	9th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila	9th Jan.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

	Leads	Sails
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Jan. 6th Jan.
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan. 14th Jan.
"CLYTONEUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan. 23rd Jan.
"ASTYANAX"	Genoa, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London & Hamburg	24th Jan. 25th Jan.
"PYRRHUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Feb. 6th Feb.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

	Sails	Arrives
G. "CLYTONEUS"	Liverpool	13th Dec.
S. "ASTYANAX"	do	13th Dec.
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	13th Dec.
S. "EUMAEUS"	do	13th Dec.
G. "ASCANUS"	24th Dec.	25th Jan. 1954
G. "AGAPENOR"	3rd Jan.	7th Feb. 1954
G. "PELEUS"	7th Jan.	13th Jan. 1954
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Jan.	22nd Feb. 1954

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	Sailed	31st Dec.
"DONA AURORA"	do	do	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	do	30th Dec.
"BATAAN"	do	do	12th Jan.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	15th Jan.	6th Feb.	7th Mar.

SAILING for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.

	Leads	Sails
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	5th Jan.
"HAIANAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.
"AGAMEMNON"	3rd Feb.	4th Feb.

Accept cargo for Kingston and to Central & South American ports on through bills of lading.

Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Depart Hongkong	Arrives H.K.
HK/Bangkok/Singapore (DC-4)	7.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	7.15 a.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Malaya/Borneo (DC-4)	6.30 a.m. Tue. Fri.	3.45 p.m. Wed. Sat.
HK/Singapore (DC-4)	11.00 a.m. Wed.	5.00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong (DC-4)	10.00 a.m. Wed.	8.45 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Langon/Calcutta (DC-4)	11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

For particulars please apply to:

Butterfield & Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.

1 Connaught Rd. Tel. 3033/8

Branch Office: 50 Connaught Rd. West. Tel. 25875, 32144, 24878

CHINA MAIL

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Postage: China and Macao \$3.00 per month, U.K., British Possessions and other countries \$7.00 per month. News contributions, always welcome, should be addressed to the Editor, Business Communications and Advertisements to the Secretary. Telephone: 2461 (5 lines). Kowloon Office: Salisbury Road, Telephone: 5232.

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Births, Deaths, Marriages.

Personal \$5.00 per insertion not exceeding 25 words, 25 cents each additional word.

ALTERNATE INSERTIONS 10% EXTRA

If not prepaid a booking fee of 50 cents is charged.

DEATHS

XAVIER—Florida Francis Xavier, aged 63, husband of late Ludovino (Dina) Xavier and mother of Augustus Hippolyte Carlos Alberto, Mrs. G. A. Cruz and Mrs. H. J. Grace, passed away at her residence at 6 Austin Avenue, Kowloon. Funeral will leave the Monument at 5.30 p.m. today.

MEDINA—Anna Maria Dos Remedios, aged 74, passed away peacefully at 12.15 a.m. on December 29, 1953. Funeral will leave Hongkong Funeral Parlour at 5.30 p.m. today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late Mrs. E. F. O'Brien tender their sincere thanks to all for their condolences, floral tributes, attendance at the funeral and donations to charity in her memory.

MUSICAL

RCA Victor LP records consisting of symphonies, operas, chamber music, instrumental and vocal. Available 12, 2nd floor, Tel. 50103.

NOTICE

BANK HOLIDAY

The Exchange Banks will be closed for the transaction of public business on Friday, 1st January 1954. (The first week day in January).

Hongkong, 30th Dec., 1953.

NOTICE

Kowloon — office space available of 1300 to 2100 square feet in centrally situated modern building (2nd floor). Enquiries to Hong Kong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., Telephone 30244 (Agency Department).

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Re: "ANCHISES" Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs Goddard & Douglas at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, 2nd January 1954, and consignees are requested to have representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, December 29, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Consignees per LLOYD TRIESTINO m.v. "ASIA"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 2nd January, 1954.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 3rd January, 1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 15th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD. Agents.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1953.

Messageries Maritimes

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building. Tel. 28651.

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN

by the luxurious

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

Sailing from Hongkong 30th December 1953 at 9 p.m.

NOTICE

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Tai Ping Insurance Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Branch
The Tai Ping Underwriters, (H.K.) Ltd.
As from 24th December, 1953
our Telephone Numbers will be:—

33330
28055 (New lines replacing previous number 26191)
28056
Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

Consignees per Company's s.s. "DIE HARKEN"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 2nd January, 1954.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 4th January, 1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 15th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

Hongkong, 29th December, 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Consignees per DABER-WILHELMSEN LINE

m.s. "TALLEYRAND"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns where it will be at consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on the 31st December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 31st December, 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before 15th January, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD. Agents.

Hongkong, 29th December, 1953.

P&O B.I. E&A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Use Hongkong
"CORFU"	10th December	15th January
"CHUSAN"	16th December	16th January
"CANTON"	16th January	15th February
"CARTHAGE"	4th February	8th March

Penang & Singapore

Leaves Hongkong

15th January 15th February

1st February 1st March

15th February 15th March

15th March 15th April

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards

"TRESILLIAN" 15th January

"TREGENNA" 25th January

Homewards

"SOCOTRA" 3rd January

For Straits, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Glasgow, Liverpool, N. Continent, Straits, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Marseilles, London, N. Continent

with liberty to call at Balawan before or after Straits Ports and at Bombay if inducement offers.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil. Bulk Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"SIRDHANA" due 3rd Jan. from Japan

for Singapore, Penang, Hongkong & Calcutta

"WARORA" due 6th Jan. from Japan

for Singapore, Rangoon & Chittagong

"ANSHUN" due 11th Jan. from Calcutta, Rangoon & Straits

for Yawata, Yokohama & Kobe

"PALIKONDA" due 24th Jan. from Japan

for Singapore, Penang, Hongkong & Calcutta

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OLINDA" due 7th Jan. from Karachi, Colombo & Straits

for Japan

"OKILA" due 12th Jan. from Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khormashahr & Basrah direct. Also Gulf ports via Bombay

"OBRA" due 14th Jan. from Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Straits

for Japan

"UMARIA" due 15th Jan. for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khormashahr & Basrah direct. Also P. Gulf ports via Bombay

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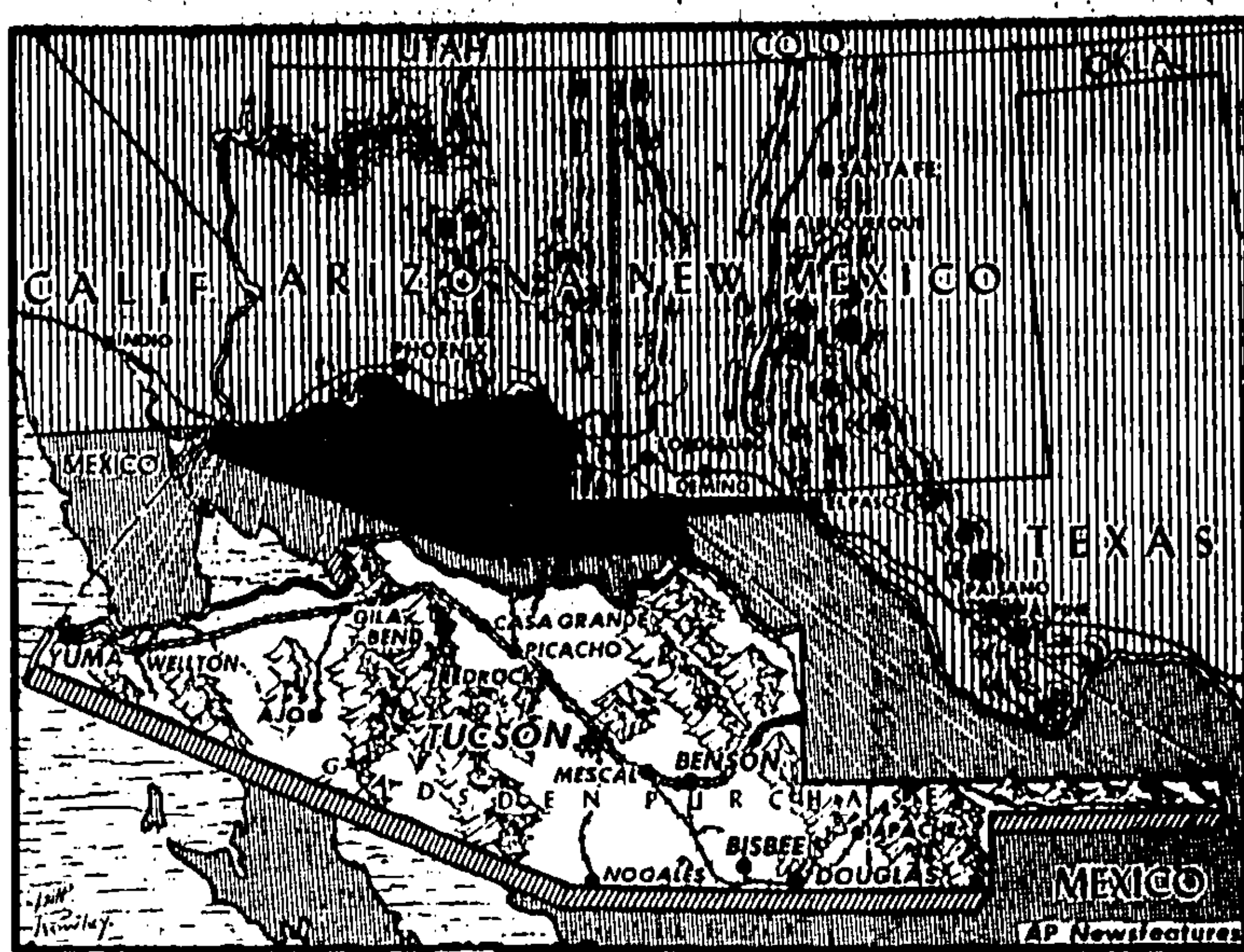
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'GADSDEN'S FOLLY' OF 1853 BROUGHT EMPIRE OF CATTLE & COTTON TO U.S.A.

(By WARREN BENNETT)

Arizona and New Mexico celebrate today the 100th anniversary of the Gadsden Purchase, a 30-million-acre tract about the size of Pennsylvania.

The purchase price of 10 million dollars not only added 45,535 square miles to the territory of the United States but it settled a damage suit of 15 million dollars brought by Mexico against this country for Indian raids down across the border.

But the main reason it was bought stems directly from the discovery of gold in California in 1849.

NO BLAZING HEARTHS FOR COMRADES:

Coal Crisis In Yugoslavia

Belgrade, Dec. 29.

A cheerless New Year in freezing houses faces many Belgrade families, unless a solution is rapidly found to Yugoslavia's coal crisis.

Supplies for industry and the railways are also threatened. The collieries say that industry and the railways allowed stocks to run dangerously low during the summer and only at the onset of winter came forward with big demands for coal, which could not possibly be fulfilled.

In addition, they said, the railways deliberately failed to replenish stocks as part of a "blackmail" policy to force prices down — which they succeeded in doing.

The railways, on the other hand, accuse the coal mines of disregarding the terms of their sale contracts by delivering inferior quality coal and by keeping prices artificially high.

Some mines are criticised because production per man has fallen, compared with last year.

In one Bosnian mine, for example, it fell from 1,665 kilograms (just over one and a half metric tons) per miner per day in 1952 to 1,100 kilograms during the first half of this year.

BELGRADE SUFFERS

Whatever the merits of the dispute, the inhabitants of Belgrade and other towns are suffering. Belgrade coal merchants were thronged in November by housewives demanding what happened to the coal they ordered, and paid for, as far back as August or September but which they never received.

Coal is the staple fuel of houses in Belgrade, where temperatures of minus 10 to minus 15 degrees centigrade are encountered in mid-winter.

Older homes have large German type stoves using a mixture of coal and wood, while modern blocks are equipped with central heating boilers which consume coal or coke.

Although private citizens may enquire in vain for coal from half a dozen coal merchants, the shortage does not affect government offices which started heating as soon as the cold weather came.

To make matters worse, a regulation was issued prohibiting the use of electric heaters and radiators during working hours, to save "cutback" for industry.

Other cities besides Belgrade failed to lay in stocks for the winter. In August, Zagreb had only two days' stock in hand, and Ljubljana little more.

At the beginning of winter, stocks held by Yugoslav industry as a whole were only 25 per cent of what they were at the same time in 1952.

Collieries began to rush production as soon as the crisis became evident. But they stated openly that they would not be able to make up for what had been lost earlier in the year.

One difficulty was that they had dismissed miners when they could not get rid of their coal in the summer, and are now finding that these men have taken other jobs and would not return.

The dispute between railways and collieries came into the open when, at the end of November, the Yugoslav Railway Directorate "blacklisted" the "Tit" mine at Banovci, in Bosnia, by refusing to send its goods trucks there.

It did this in answer to a refusal by the miners' collective turning the colliery to cut prices.

"CAPITALISTS"

Both railways and the colliery were accused in the press of using "capitalist" methods which might be normal in the West, but which were unworthy of a Socialist society such as Yugoslavia.

Financial difficulties are partly the cause of the crisis in the Yugoslav coal industry. Banovci, for instance, is over 300,000,000 dinars in debt to the Yugoslav National Bank.

Allegations of mismanagement at Banovci came up for discussion before the colliery Workers' Council. According to one allegation the procurement department had been told to order urgently eight ball-bearings which were not even needed.

The procurement department had the ball-bearings brought in by air from abroad at a cost of 80,000 dinars each. When they arrived no one claimed them.

Banovci, which employs 3,000 miners, had 4,200 before it had to cut down this summer—produces 4,000 tons of coal a day.

Under its present contract with the railways, it sells coal to them for 300 dinars a ton less than to other users.

Railway officials allege that Banovci is deliberately neglecting them, so as to get the extra 300 dinars a ton profit. For instance on November 23, it delivered only 19 tons of coal to the railways and 4,072 tons to other users.

In the third quarter of this year, railway officials said, the Banovci railway received 70,184 tons of coal, less than stipulated by contracts from Yugoslav collieries.—Router.

Railroads were engaged in a race to reach the gold fields. Surveys had shown the land south of the Gila River was the most practicable southern route across the rugged Rocky Mountains. The only hitch was this strip was a sort of No Man's Land claimed by Mexico and the United States.

One of the men interested in a trans-continental route was James Gadsden, President of the South Carolina Railroad with headquarters in Charleston. He wanted to build a railroad across these plains south of the Gila to link the gold fields of the West with the supply centres of the East and also to tap the rich China trade.

Gadsden was appointed minister to Mexico to negotiate the purchase, and at the same time settle the border dispute with Mexico and that damage suit over Indian raids. Gadsden's appointment by President Franklin Pierce aroused a controversy in Congress.

This was more than a decade before the Civil War but the slavery issue was strong. The North opposed acquisition of any new territory that would increase the domain of the South.

"A LAND GRAB"

When Gadsden signed a treaty with Gen. Santa Anna, the Mexican leader, on Dec. 30, 1853, the outcries increased. It was pointed out that the people were paying more than 34 cents an acre for worthless desert. It was called a land grab for the benefit of the railroads.

The treaty met strong opposition in the Senate where lobbying by speculators gave it a bad reputation. There were objections to furnishing financial assistance to Santa Anna. But, by a narrow margin, the treaty was ratified on April 25, 1854.

Those acres of "worthless desert" have returned over four billion dollars in copper and other minerals.

Irrigation has converted the arid desert into agricultural oases of cotton, citrus fruits, dates, pecans, barley and alfalfa. The purchase, which includes all or part of eight southern Arizona counties and six in southwestern New Mexico, has become known as an empire of the four "C's"—Copper, Cattle, Cotton and Climate. They support more than 350,000 people.

Tucson, the area's largest city, was an adobe-walled village a century ago. Today it is a resort centre with a metropolitan population of 170,000.

Bisbee, Douglas and Benson are important mining centres; Lordsburg and Deming are headquarters for a thriving livestock industry; rapidly expanding Yuma and Nogales attract many tourists.

But all this, James Gadsden never lived to see. He did not even see the initial plans for his railroad come into being. Gadsden died on Christmas Day in 1859.

Then came the Civil War. Not until 20 years after the purchase did construction start on the "railroad" — the Southern Pacific. The right of way for the lowest rail crossing of the Colorado Divide.

However, the Congressional experts regard as "very significant" the fact that, despite population increases, the civilian labour force decreased to 61,925,000 in November from 62,228,000 in the same month of last year.

"This means," it was explained, "that an extraordinary number of workers have withdrawn from the labour market." They include housewives and older workers.

"If there are still substantial numbers of such workers in the labour force, as is suggested, total employment could decline much further without resulting in unemployment indicative of a serious downturn in the country's economy."

If the Congressional experts are satisfied, that is that. Other observers might feel that if total employment did decline "much further," it would be serious regardless of whether it showed up in retirements from the working force or in unemployment.

In November, the seasonal drop in farm employment was half a million, the same as last year; but the seasonal rise in non-farm employment was less than 200,000, against more than 850,000 last year. So total employment, which had risen by more than 350,000 in November 1952, dropped 300,000 in November 1953.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$345,335. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS

HSK Bank ... 1585 1595

INSURANCES

Lombard ... 54 56 1/2

Union ... 53 54

SHIPPING

Waterboat ... 19.80

DOCKS, ETC.

K. Wharf ... 53 1/2

Dock ... 12.00 21 1/2

Shah Dock ... 1.05

Wheelock ... 8.05 8.10 15.00 8 0.05

LAND, ETC.

HK Hotel ... 0.70 0 1/2 17.00 8 7 1/2

HK Land ... 70 70 1/2 700 8 70 1/2

Humphreys ... 1.05 1.05 6.00 8 1.05

Really ... 1.05 1.05 6.00 8 1.05

UTILITIES

Tram ... 26.20 26.40 200 26 20.40

Star Ferry ... 140

C. Light (O) 12.00 ... 2000 12.00

C. Light (N) 10.70 10.80 ... 2000 10.70

Electric ... 20.10 20.30 700 20 20.30

Telephone ... 27.25

INDUSTRIALS

Cement ... 18.70 19.10

STONES, ETC.

Dairy ... 28.25 30 500 28 30

L. Crawford 25 ... 2000 25.10

COTTONS

Evo Textile Corp. 1.20 7.25 4500 7 1/4

Yongtze ... 0.15 0.20 1000 0 0.20

Exchange Rates

Dollar was done in the last

session at the following rates:

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

US dollar (per 100) ... 7.25

U.S. ECONOMY EXAMINED

"1954 Is Not Likely To Be Easy"

(By SYDNEY S. CAMPBELL)

London, Dec. 29.

According to the U.S. Government's Information Service, economic advisers to Congress take a hopeful view of the course of the U.S. economy for the coming six months.

Mr Grover W. Ensley, Staff Director of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report, says, "I can see now for the next six months a pretty strong economy."

Total employment of 61,925,000 in November was 303,000 below November of last year, while unemployment of 2,300,000 was 100,000 over November 1952 and 500,000 over October of this year.

However, the Congressional experts regard as "very significant" the fact that, despite population increases, the civilian labour force decreased to 61,925,000 in November from 62,228,000 in the same month of last year.

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Business and employment ought to have gained more from the drop in the labour force than they lost from the mild-weather disturbance to sales of such things as oil, coal and winter clothing.

But in the event it has been the other way round, and some of the unseasonal activity which construction has gained from the mild weather is regarded as "borrowed" from future business.

NO CHEER

Business Week, a highly regarded publication, takes the drop in the labour force as nothing to cheer about, but, on the contrary, as a "warning flag." It does brake the rise in unemployment; but in the face of the rise in population and the entry of young workers it means that, over the past year, about a million people have stopped looking for work.

For several weeks, some bankers have suspected that the Federal Reserve is trying to give the money supply by an average of 3 per cent per annum, to keep the economy growing without inflation.

The idea is that, over a very long past period, the U.S. economy has grown by about 3 per cent a year, but that, as the money supply has grown faster, there has been inflation. So if the money supply is increased by 3 per cent a year, everything will be grand. It seems incredibly naive.

Business depends, of course, on the speed with which money is used, not merely on its total supply.

At present the Federal Reserve is willing to pump any amount of money into the system, but it does no good, because business refuses to use it.

In the week to December 9 the Federal Reserve pumped no less than \$264 million into the credit base by enlarging its portfolio of Government securities. Business refused to take a cent of it.

On the contrary, the business loans of the New York City banks fell by \$24 million, against a rise of \$103 million in the corresponding week last year; they are now \$312 million below the year-ago level.

PROSPECTS FOR 1954

In any case, even if long-term growth at 3 per cent per annum could be assured by money policy and other means (it would require many other means besides money policy), such crude money policies would not necessarily prevent violent short-term swings above or below the rising trend line.

Over the past two generations the U.S. economy has grown at that rate; but the long-term growth did not prevent a ruinous depression after 1929, and serious difficulties in some other years. In the aftermath of a defence boom, a capital goods boom, a consumer boom and an inventory boom which all bunched together, 1954 is not likely to be the easiest of years. Whatever the secular trend line eventually proved to be, it is a safe bet that 1954 will be below rather than above it.

Little if any further stimulus can be expected from tax write-offs; they are a spent force.

Some encouragement was given recently by the Office of Defense Mobilization, which said that the U.S. Government will need additional production capacity for 1954. It is not clear, however, whether this is a forecast or a warning.

On the one hand, a more cheerful note was struck by the fact that the U.S. economy is now growing at a slower rate than it was in 1952. On the other hand, the fact that the U.S. economy is now growing at a slower rate than it was in 1952 is a warning.

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NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Dec. 29.

Stocks declined to their lowest levels in two months today on selling for tax purposes but they rallied later in the day.

A burst of selling in the second hour dropped the general market average to its lowest point since October 28 and boosted volume to 520,000 shares—highest for the period since April 8.

Almost immediately, prices steadied and volume lightened and then in the last hours of trading the market pulled up sharply, with volume picking up again.

Industrial stocks, down \$4 at the day's low, finished just \$1.61 lower. Rails, off \$1.91 at their bottom, closed down \$1.02. Utilities, just about halved their 32 cents extreme loss, closing 13 cents lower.

Volume for the full session totalled 2,140,000 shares, the heaviest session since Sept. 15. The selling was most marked in "blue chip" industrials such as General Electric, Du Pont and Westinghouse Electric.

These same stocks led in the later recovery as traders concluded they had been sold cheap. The market was the broadest since last June 8, with 1,220 issues traded—753 lower, 207 higher, 260 unchanged.

The New York Stock Exchange bond volume was at \$3,500,000.

The American Stock Exchange volume was 630,000 shares.

Dow Jones closing averages were:

Dec. 29	Dec. 28
30 Industrials	370.30
20 Railroads	152.30
15 Utilities	51.97
80 Stocks	105.06
40 Bonds	97.10
Comm. Future Price Index	103.92

—United Press.

New York Metal Futures

New York, Dec. 29.

Lead Dec.	12.67 1/2
Tin Dec.	83.25
Jan.	82.50
Feb.	81.75
Copper Dec.	92.50
Jan.	91.75
Feb.	91.00

Prices in US cents per lb.—United Press.

LONDON FUTURES

London, Dec. 29.

3-months	63 1/2
Copper spot	233 1/2
3-month	231 1/2
Lead Dec.	22 1/2
Jan.	22 1/2
Feb.	22 1/2
Zinc Dec.	74 1/2
Jan.	74 1/2
Feb.	74 1/2

All prices in sterling per long ton.—United Press.

Loan To Japan For Power

Washington, Dec. 29.

The International Bank reported that its \$40,000,000 loan to Japan for thermal electric power development went into effect today.

The loan, announced last October, will be funneled through the Japan Development Bank to three companies for projects on Kyushu, Kansai and Chubu.

The fact that the loan became "effective" means that the money may now be drawn against it.—United Press.

New York Sugar Market

New York, Dec. 29.

Contract No. 4 (world)	3.50
Jan.	3.25
March	3.25
May	3.25
Spot (cents per lb. No. 11)	3.25

Prices in US cents per lb.—United Press.

Chicago Grain Futures

Chicago, Dec. 29.

Wheat, No. 2, red	2.04 1/2
Spot	2.04 1/2
March	2.04 1/2
May	2.04 1/2
Spot (cents per lb. No. 11)	2.04 1/2

Prices in US cents per bushel.—United Press.

U.S. COMMODITY PRICE INDEX

New York, Dec. 29.

Dec. 29	Dec. 28
Dow Jones	370.30
30 Industrials	370.30
20 Railroads	152.30
15 Utilities	51.97
80 Stocks	105.06
40 Bonds	97.10
Comm. Future Price Index	103.92

—United Press.

U.S. Cotton Prices

New York, Dec. 29.

Dec. 29	Dec. 28
Dow Jones	370.30
30 Industrials	370.30
20 Railroads	152.30
15 Utilities	51.97
80 Stocks	105.06
40 Bonds	97.10
Comm. Future Price Index	103.92

—United Press.

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Page 10 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1953.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

No Place For Mary

IN all their Christmas and their New Year calculations, in lists of presents and place-arrangements at meals, and theatre seats booked and party invitations accepted or refused, the family left out the name of one of their number.

"No," they said when people asked them, "we don't think it likely Mary will be able to get back home this year."

"She's down in England, and it's a long journey. She'll be with friends," she said in her letter.

Well, up to a point it was true. Mary, the pretty 19-year-old daughter of this Scottish family, was down in England.

And probably she did plan to spend Christmas and the New Year with friends—though they would not be the sort her father would have near his house—and Mary had not bothered to write and tell of her plans.

A GOOD DAUGHTER

SHE had hardly written at all. Indeed, since a kind of madness seized her in the summer, and she went away.

Until then she had been an excellent daughter, and had played her full part in the happy home life.

She was born in India, where her father was a planter. Mary was there when the family came home for good. She went to good schools and did well there, with those learned how to be a shorthand-typist and got herself a promising job.

After a year or so there, she left for another job with higher pay. Out of office hours, her quiet and good looks played havoc with the equilibrium of the young men in the suburb where she lived. As she seemed level-headed, there did not seem much cause for worry.

GOOD-TIME GIRL

THEN, in the summer, she walked out of her family, and came to England. The part of England which Mary chose was London. The part of London, the West End. She joined the end company of young people who, in their teens or early 20's, decide to quit work and take up ending. The Jack-and-Jill are going downhill crowd.

The other day, as she munched around a pin-table saloon, Mary was arrested. With the Policeman who came up to her was a pale, blonde girl, in her twenties—one of Mary's new friends, she had thought.

"That's her, officer," the blonde said, pointing at Mary. "took all me clothes, she did, and me bag with me money in it."

"But this girl lent me the clothes," Mary said. "We were sharing a room. Then, when I tried to give her them back, it couldn't find her."

At Bow Street, next morning, that was Mary's defence, when she pleaded not guilty to stealing her new friend's wardrobe (valued at £11 10s.) and her money (£3 10s.).

THE FUTURE

SIR LAURENCE DUNNE, the Chief Magistrate, heard the story. He found Mary guilty of stealing the clothes, not guilty of taking the money.

"I see," he said, when her story had been told by the police. "Well, I shall remand this girl for a medical report." He turned to the probation officer. "If possible," he said, "I should like to get her into a hostel, and doing some work, but that's all in the future."

The probation officer nodded, and Mary was led away. She still looked pretty, with her long black hair and her tip-tipped nose, but all gaiety was gone from her now.

A Better Understanding Of Hongkong Educating British Public

By NOEL CRAIG

IN spite of printed and verbal nonsense about the Colony, which from time to time is ventilated in the United Kingdom, the London Office of the Hongkong Government is of the opinion that a better understanding now exists in the country.

During an interview last month with Mr. E. G. A. Grimwood, Director of the London Office, he told me that the "British public is becoming more educated on the subject of Hongkong."

However, from my own observations there are "None so blind as those that will not see. None so deaf as those that will not hear." And a lot of light is being thrown on the industrial manufacturers in the United Kingdom are blind and deaf, but certainly not dumb.

There has been a great deal of mud-slinging during the past few years and although there has been a great deal of clearing up by Mr. Grimwood some of the mud has stuck to the walls of many ears.

The saddest and most stupid affair this year was started by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber, in a report to be submitted to the Board of Trade by its Patents, Trade Marks and Designs Committee, suggested that many foreign products were coming into the United Kingdom via Hongkong. These goods, according to the Committee, were supposed to have been manufactured in the Colony when, in fact, they were made elsewhere.

It may be remembered that a Mr. Holden of the National Union of Manufacturers charged in and was reported as saying that the imports came from China, Japan, Italy and Soviet Russia.

WROTE APOLOGY

Mr. Holden also stated that exporters claimed relief from duty as the goods were Empire products. Mr. Holden's last claim, when tackled, was that he had been mis-reported by the Birmingham Gazette.

He did, however, write an immediate apology to the London Office.

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has been unable to produce any evidence. Mr. Grimwood has made repeated offers to go to Birmingham and talk to the Committee, but so far the offers have not been accepted.

The only offer to produce evidence concerned an umbrella and this drew a blank as the London Office was able to trace them back to the precise factory in Hongkong.

Another effort tending to bring the Colony into disrepute this year came unavailing.

Mr. Roy Kemp (a prominent glove manufacturer) alleged that woollen gloves entering England via the Colony actually originated in Japan, China and Italy.

COLONY'S OUTPUT

It was proved to Mr. Kemp that Hongkong had, at that time, an output of at least 100,000 dozen pairs of gloves a month.

It is interesting to note that glove dealers in the United Kingdom, buying from Hongkong (and Mr. Kemp) have had a great deal of difficulty in getting his (Kemp's) organisation to fulfil orders since his production cannot, apparently, meet the demand.

Mr. Grimwood still hears slight rumblings from Leicester. The biggest problem of the London Office which brings the officials into contact with the Board of Trade is the United Nations embargo.

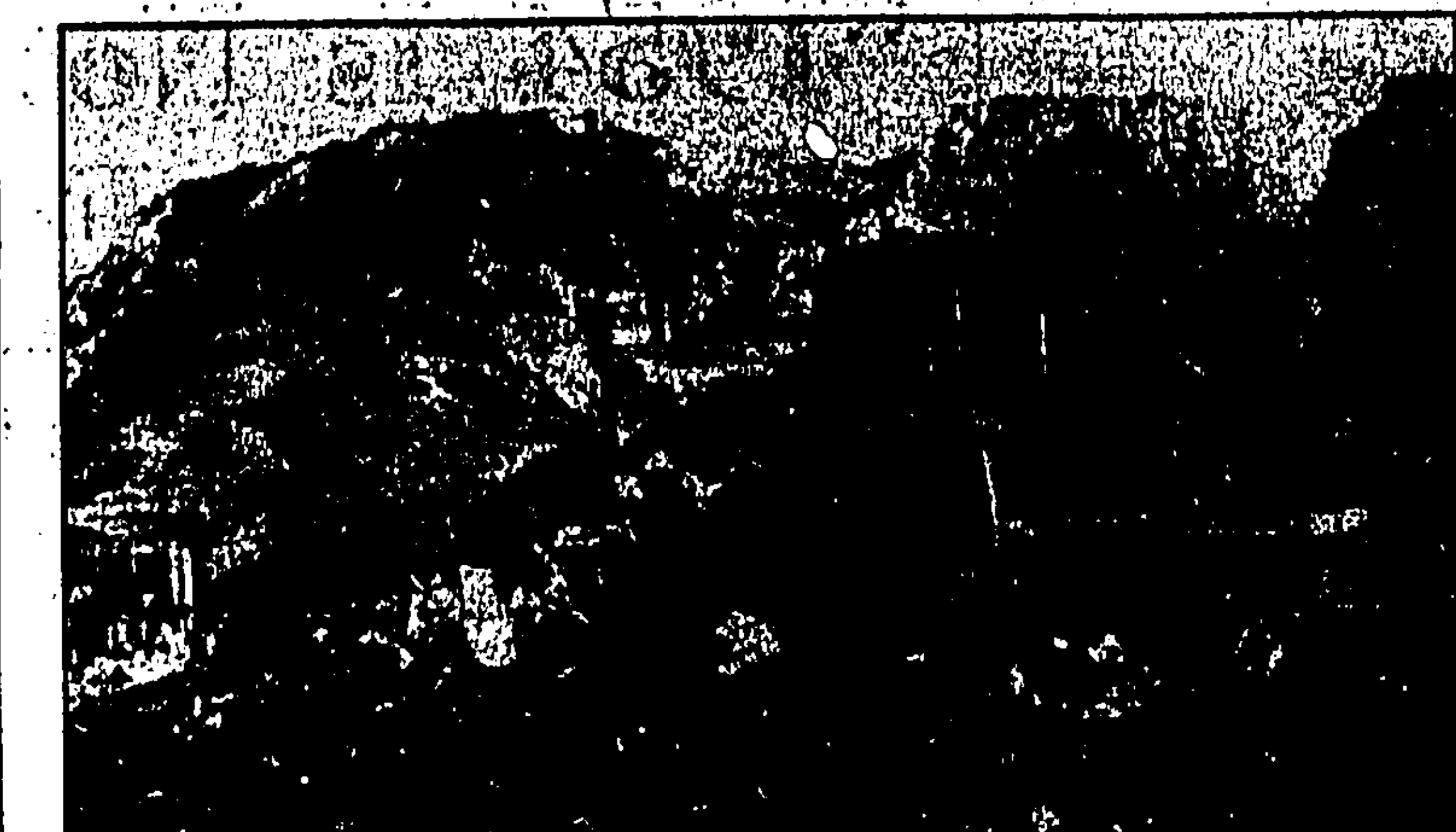
RED-TAPE

He told me that he receives a great deal of co-operation from the Board, but while in his office a furious Hongkong resident came in and wanted to know why she had to apply to the Board (in triplicate) to send two pairs of shoes—one repaired—to the Colony.

Six shirts, unsalable in England as a result of poor finishing, had to be sent back to the Colony to support a claim.

A rag-and-bone merchant would not have given a three-penny-bit for them, but those forms in triplicate had to be completed.

Preparing Resettlement Site



PRISONERS MUST BE RELEASED

London, Dec. 29.

The British Foreign Office today repeated its demand that all prisoners of war in Korea must be released on January 22 under the Korean armistice agreement.

A spokesman made the statement in a news conference comment on yesterday's majority report of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea.

He said Britain disagreed with parts of the report—signed by the Indian, Polish and Czech delegates—which had charged that the Allied side and particularly South Korea, had influenced anti-Communist prisoners in Indian custody not to return home.

The spokesman said there was "some kind" of organisation among the prisoners held by the Allies, but disputed that it was anything like the three-nation delegates had alleged. "It did not alter the prisoners' freedom of choice," the spokesman said.

Asked for comment on the report's plea that the Communists should give "earnest consideration" to the future of the 22,000 prisoners, the spokesman said: "Our view is still that the prisoners should be set free on January 22 in the absence of any other agreement." He added that Britain "generally agreed" with the report of the Swiss and Swedish members of the five-nation repatriation commission. This had said they could find no reason to blame either the Communist or Allied side for the breakdown in "explanations" to prisoners refusing repatriation.—Reuter.

VERY DELICATE MATTER

Seoul, Dec. 30.

South Korean Defence Minister, Admiral Sohn Won Il, told a press conference today the United Nations Navy and Air Force in Korea would use atomic weapons if the Communists showed aggression against South Korea.

Admiral Sohn, questioned further by reporters, said "the whole matter is very delicate."

Admiral Sohn conferred last week with the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur Radford, at the South Korean naval base of Chinhae, on the southern tip of South Korea.—Reuter.

EXPULSION FROM LABOUR PARTY

London, Dec. 29.

The British Labour Party has expelled Mrs. Eva Redfern, chairman of a local section of the party, following a trip to the Soviet Union last month to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Anti-Fascist Committee.

Mrs. Redfern is County Council

Liberal in Derbyshire.—France Press.

TO CARRY ON

Paris, Dec. 29.

Key postal workers, whose French Christmas mail, tonight decided to "continue" and send the walk-out to support their wages and bonus claims.

Operations started yesterday on preparing the site where huts will be built to resettle the squatters who were dispossessed as a result of the destructive fire in the Shumshupo area on Christmas night. Above is seen a bulldozer at work, clearing and leveling the site.—Staff photographer.

Registration Of Fire Victims Ends

It was announced this morning that the registration of the victims of the huge fire in the Shumshupo area on Christmas night is now ended. The total number of persons registered is 58,203.

A Government official emphasised that every application has been given careful consideration.

The possession by applicants of identity cards has been regarded as adequate proof that they are genuine victims. Those without identity cards have been more carefully questioned but on the production of reasonable proof they have also been duly registered.

Volunteers are required to help in the sorting of used Red Cross clothing. Individuals wishing to assist should get in touch with Mrs. Cowperthwaite, Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Branch of the British Red Cross Society (Tel. No. 71839) or with Mrs. Angus (Tel. No. 59780). Volunteering for this work should report to the British American Tobacco Factory at Gloucester Road.

New Husband For Barbara

Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, Dec. 29.

Miss Barbara Hutton and Porfirio Rubirosa will be married at the Dominican Republic's Consulate in New York, the Foreign Office announced tonight.

It said that high government officials will go to New York especially for the ceremony, but their names were not given.

It was reported at the same time that Miss Hutton will become a Dominican citizen and Rubirosa will be reinstated as a member of this country's diplomatic service of which he was recently dismissed by the government.

The bride and groom will come to the Dominican Republic on their honeymoon, it was said.

Rubirosa's relatives said they could not understand why his marriage to Miss Hutton had caused such a sensation. They explained that the romance started in Europe several months ago and that Miss Hutton and Rubirosa were constantly seen together in London.—United Press.

FATAL FALL FROM WINDOW

A 34-year-old man, Lai Hing, fell or jumped from a window on the third floor of the Asia Hotel, Connaught Road Central, at 10 o'clock this morning.

He was rushed to Queen Mary Hospital, where he died.

An attendant at the hotel said that the man took the "room" yesterday evening and that he had been in the hotel since then.

PRISON ESCAPEE SENTENCED

Lai Flu-ying, 34-year-old woman, residing at 180 Queen's Road East, was sentenced to six months' hard labour by Mr. T. Creedon at Kowloon this morning for escaping from legal custody.

Insp. W. Gillies said that the defendant was a prisoner who had escaped from Laidlaw Prison after she had been sentenced to one month's imprisonment for soliciting for immoral purposes.

Insp. Gillies told the Court that the defendant had arranged with Lo Kum-lam, another woman prisoner, who was serving a seven days' sentence at the Prison, to exchange sentences with her.

Defendant promised employment and a sewing machine to Lo after her release.

After defendant had been released in Lo's place, Lo began to talk about the exchange to other fellow prisoners.

The matter came to the attention of the Matron and upon investigation she found that the wrong person had been released. Lo was then charged with assisting a fellow prisoner to escape and was sentenced to six months at Kowloon yesterday.

Death Of Old Resident

Mrs. Florinda, Francisca Favacho Xavier, an old resident of Hongkong, passed away at 4.30 this morning at her residence, 6 Austin Avenue.

Mrs. Xavier, who was 83, had lived in the Colony for some 60 years since coming here from Macao, her birth place.

She is survived by three sons, Hypollito, Carlos, and Alberto, and three daughters, Augusta, Mrs. Carmelina Cruz and Mrs. Celeste Grace, and 16 grandchildren.

She was the widow of the late Mr. Ludovino Xavier, one-time manager of the Hongkong Printing Press.

Mrs. Xavier had not been well for some time, and was taken ill about two weeks ago.

The funeral takes place today, and the cortege will pass the Monument at 5.30 p.m.

More German POWs Freed

Berlin, Dec. 29.

A further group of 1,043 Germans freed from Soviet prison camps arrived at Frankfurt on Oder, the East German news agency, ADN, reported today.

ADN quoted the East German Interior Ministry for the announcement.

Today's batch was the ninth since the Soviet Union began returning German and West European prisoners of war and others held in Soviet camps on September 25.

The eighth group arrived on Sunday when 1,448 people, of which 573 were women.

The group who arrived today brought the total of 65,000 Germans who have returned home since September 25, 1945, most of whom have been sent to West Germany.—Reuter.

Dangerous Drugs Case: Analyst Cross-Examined

The trial of two Shanghai Chinese, Wong Tak-sang, alias Wong Yam, 52, broker, and Wong Kin-ming, 30, chauffeur, on charges of conspiracy and possession of dangerous drugs, continued before Mr. Justice A. D. Scholes, acting Puisne Judge, at the Criminal Sessions this morning when Mr. E. Collins, Government Analyst, was cross-examined by the Defence Counsel.

The accused were charged with (1) conspiracy on various dates between April 1, 1951, and March 29, 1953, with others not in custody, to manufacture, morphine and heroin; (2) conspiracy on various dates in the same period, with others not in custody, to deal in opium, morphine and heroin; (3) possession on March 29, 1953, of 250 lbs. of raw opium, 80 1/2 ounces of diacetyl morphine hydrochloride (heroin), 8 lbs. of crude morphine, 18 ounces of impure morphine and 11 ounces of morphine hydrochloride; and (4) possession of 1.7 grammes of raw opium on the same date.

Both accused pleaded not guilty to all counts and a Jury of six men and one woman was empanelled.

The Prosecution was conducted by Mr. D. F. O'Reilly Mayne, Crown Counsel, assisted by Mr. W. B. Scraggs, ASP, ADCI (Kowloon), and Det. Sub-Insp. J. E. H. Hidden. Both accused were represented by Mr. D. A. L. Wright, instructed by Hastings and Co. Continuing his evidence, Mr. Collins described the various processes of making heroin from raw opium. He said the ultimate source of heroin was opium.

CROSS-EXAMINED

Cross-examined, Mr. Collins said it was difficult to give a definite figure of heroin pills which could be obtained from one pound of raw opium. Following calculations, Mr. Collins said approximately 2,000 pills could be produced.

Questioned on the rubber sheeting which was produced as exhibits, Mr. Collins said the sheeting was of no significance in so far as the processes of making heroin were concerned. It was used to wrap up the products of raw materials but it did not enter into the manufacture.

Mr. Collins said the scales seized would be used to measure the correct amounts of ingredients used in all the chemical processes.

Mr. Collins said that in the laboratory, heat would be acquired in the processing by means of Bunsen burners. Some ether and chloroform would also be used in the process.

At certain stages of the process, the odour produced would be disagreeable but it would not be intolerable, Mr. Collins said.

Witness said one would have to have general chemical knowledge for carrying on the process or he would have to be particularly instructed as to the processing.

Hearing is continuing.

Small fire which broke out

in a room at 235 Hennessy Road first floor, shortly after 10 this morning was soon put out on the prompt arrival of the Fire Brigade.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



He never guessed it was that late, was waiting for you to know your own mind.